FIH Women's WC Qualifiers: India to meet England in final

P20

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Iran about to surrender, says Trump

US Prez makes claim during virtual meet of G7 leaders

P14

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DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

WHACKY VERSE

Pipe dream

They say relax, don't panic
But the gas scene is manic.
Minister Jaishankar
Is banking on a tanker—
Will it come, or is it Titanic?

Cong MLA says he's unhappy with Budget

Iqbal Hussain remark leaves govt red-faced

P7

SOS: Free lessons to stay afloat

A shop owner in Kerala has spent 16 years teaching people to swim for free

The SATURDAY STORY

Every year, an estimated 38,000 people die from drowning in India. Yet, India responded to the crisis only last year, when Kerala launched a WHO-led initiative to teach survival swimming in schools. But one man in Kerala has been offering this training voluntarily and free of cost for 16 years. An owner of a furniture store, Saji Valasseril teaches people to swim in the Periyar river. More than 16,000 people have learnt the basics, nearly a quarter have gone on to cross the river, and one has become a para-swimming champion.

Full story, Page 17

West Asia on boil

- Explosions rock Tehran close to a pro-govt rally attended by security chief Ali Larijani, Prez Pezeshkian and FM Abbas Araghchi
- All six crew died when a US airforce KC-135 refuelling plane crashed in Iraq
- A French solider killed in drone attack in Iraq's Kurdistan
- US offers $10 mn reward for info about Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba

Iran may allow safe passage of fuel to India

Tehran nudges New Delhi to get BRICS bloc condemn US-Israel attack

NEW DELHI, DHNS & AGENCIES

Iran may grant safe passage for vessels carrying oil and other cargo to India through the Strait of Hormuz, Tehran's envoy to New Delhi, Mohammad Fathali, said on Friday, a day after the newly appointed Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said that the narrow sea route would remain blocked.

The envoy's statement came even as Iran nudged India, which holds the rotating chair of the BRICS, to get the bloc to condemn the military offensive launched by Israel and the US. New Delhi, however, informed Tehran that while it was discussing the issue with other BRICS members, a consensus remained elusive.

"Yes, because India is our friend. You will see it within two or three hours. We believe that Iran and India share common interests in the region," Fathali told journalists in New Delhi while responding to questions about the safety of merchant vessels transiting the strait to ports in India.

Fathali made the comment on a day when New Delhi started repatriating the 183 crew members of the Iranian Navy ship IRIS Lavan, which is docked at Kochi.

The statement came amid reports of Iran allowing two Indian-flagged LPG carriers to sail through the strait. According to sources with direct knowledge of the matter, the Indian-flagged LPG tanker Shivalik crossed the strait under escort from the Indian Navy, and the second vessel, Nanda Devi, was expected to clear soon.

▸ **Iran, Page 3B**
IndiGo to levy fuel charge on tickets, Page 15

Smoke emerges from a cargo vessel in the Persian Gulf, north of Dubai, on Friday. AFP

India-flagged ships in the Persian Gulf

- West of Strait of Hormuz-24 with **678 seafarers**
- East of Strait of Hormuz-3 with **76 seafarers**
- One oil tanker east of Hormuz has sailed to **Africa** in the last 24 hours

Rs 1L-cr economic stabilisation fund to tackle global headwinds

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union government proposes to set up a Rs 1 lakh-crore economic stabilisation fund that would give fiscal headroom for the country in dealing with global economic headwinds such as the ongoing West Asia crisis, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament on Friday.

"The proposed fund will provide fiscal headroom, allowing India to respond to global headwinds such as recent crises, unanticipated supply chain disruptions, unexpected shocks to sub-sectors of the Indian economy, and any other events that may have significant fiscal implications," Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha.

As part of supplementary demands for grants, the government has sought Parliament's approval for Rs 57,381.84 crore for the proposed fund.

▸ **Nirmala, Page 4**

WAR SHOCKS

Switch to electric stove: Muniyappa to hoteliers

Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa urged hoteliers to manage with electric/induction stoves at least for a week or ten days. Speaking in the Legislative Council on the issue of LPG shortage, the minister ruled out priority supply of commercial cylinders to hotels.

Details on Page 4

Conflict kills two more Indians, toll goes up to five

The number of Indian citizens killed in the conflict in West Asia went up to five, with two more lives snuffed out in a drone strike in Oman. The drone strike at Sohar also injured 10 others, The slain Indians were workers at Al Awhi Industrial Zone.

Details on Page 8

Law on menstrual leave may affect career chances: SC

Says practical reality to be considered; disposes of PIL seeking order to frame law

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

> The moment you introduce a law, a compulsory condition, you do not know the amount of damage you are going to do to their career. Nobody will take them.
> **Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court on Friday said introducing a law mandating menstrual leave for women could inadvertently affect their career prospects, as the court emphasised the need to consider practical realities of the job market before framing such policies and ensure no impression is created among young women that they are inferior.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a PIL by Shailendra Mani Tripathi, represented by senior advocate M R Shamshad, seeking direction to states to frame menstrual leave rules.

The bench said there is a very deep-rooted design behind these petitions, and they are not bona fide petitions. "Basically, (it is) to create an impression in young women that you are still inferior. You have some natural issues that you cannot be at par with men, therefore, during a particular time you cannot work like that."

It said the petitioner should understand the long-term impact of the direction he was seeking.

The court, however, asked the Union government and competent authorities to consider the representation of the petitioner and examine the possibility of framing a policy on menstrual leave after consulting all stakeholders.

The court said that affirmative action for women is constitutionally recognised, but they must consider the practical reality, that is, the less attractive the human resource, the lower the possibility of its selection.

It said these are factors to be looked into, and one must look at the issue from the business model.

The bench said if a right to take three or four days of leave per month is created, as the petitioner suggests, it will adversely impact women's careers.

The counsel submitted that he is pressing for two days' leave.

▸ **Menstrual leave, Page 4**

Today's issue includes DH Classifieds Supplement

India, US engaged in trade talks: Govt

NEW DELHI, PTI: India and the US remain engaged in discussions for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement, the commerce ministry said on Friday.

The ministry denied media reports about a hold-off on bilateral engagement.

"It is reiterated that the two sides remain engaged for a mutually beneficial trade agreement," the commerce ministry said in a statement.

Oppn MPs submit notice to remove CEC

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In what marks a first in India's parliamentary history, I.N.D.I.A bloc MPs on Friday submitted notices seeking the removal of Gyanesh Kumar as Chief Election Commissioner in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Sources said the Opposition MPs have charged him on seven counts in detailed 10-page identical notices that have signatures of 130 Lok Sabha MPs and 63 Rajya Sabha MPs.

The charges include 'proven misbehaviour', 'partisan exercise' of Constitutional functions favouring one particular party formulation and 'deliberate obstruction' of investigations into instances of 'electoral fraud', among others.

Kumar becomes the first of the 25 CECs to receive an impeachment notice submitted in Parliament in the past 74 years, although some parties attempted such an exercise against TN Sheshan in 1991. The NDA submitted a memorandum seeking the dismissal of Navin Chawla in 2006.

The removal process of a CEC will be the same as that of impeaching a judge.

If the notices are admitted, the Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman will jointly constitute a panel consisting of the Supreme Court Chief Justice or a judge, a High Court Chief Justice and an eminent jurist to probe the charges. If it indicts him, a motion will be discussed in both Houses and once passed, the President will order his removal.

The prime mover of the notice is TMC. Mamata Banerjee had been protesting against the deletion of voters in West Bengal.

▸ **CEC, Page 4**

RS polls: 8 Odisha MLAs camp at Bidadi resort

BENGALURU, DHNS: Eight first-time Congress lawmakers from Odisha, fearful of being poached ahead of the March 16 Rajya Sabha election, are camping at a resort in Bidadi under the supervision of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

"These MLAs are being made big offers to defect," Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress president, told reporters after meeting the MLAs.

Shivakumar had earlier safeguarded Congress lawmakers from Maharashtra (2002) to help then chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, and from Gujarat (2017) to ensure Ahmed Patel's election to Rajya Sabha. "I was informed by my Odisha counterpart that MLAs are coming. We've made arrangements for their stay," Shivakumar said. "I must do what the party says."

Details on Page 7

FOUL FROTH

Toxic foam floats on the Yamuna river near Kalindi Kunj in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

FSSAI removes dual licensing for street food vendors

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Health Ministry on Friday approved regulatory reforms that permit street food vendors to work without an FSSAI licence if they are registered with the municipal authorities or town vending committees.

The vendors registered with municipal corporations or town vending committees under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, will be considered as 'deemed registered' under the FSSAI.

The move would benefit more than 10 lakh vendors as it would eliminate the requirement for multiple registrations across departments, officials said, noting that the reform would 'significantly' reduce compliance burden.

Details on Page 12

Quickly

Cong shop of false promises: Modi

Targeting the Congress ahead of the Assam Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday alleged that the Opposition party is a "dukan" (shop) of false promises. "People across Assam, including Bodoland, have gone through difficult times and suffered due to long conflicts.

The Congress kept the people of Bodoland engrossed in false promises. Assam and Bodoland witnessed the Congress' betrayal for decades. The Congress is a shop of false promises," he said.

Details on Page 8

Kerala likely to oppose women's entry into Sabarimala

Deviating from its earlier stand, the CPM-led government in Kerala is likely to oppose the entry of women in the 10-50 age group into the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple. The government will convey its stand to the Supreme Court, which is considering reviewing petitions against the 2018 order lifting the ban on the entry of women into the temple.

Details on Page 12

SC notice to Mahua in cash-for-query case

The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from TMC MP Mahua Moitra on a plea filed by the Lokpal challenging a Delhi High Court judgment, in which it held that separate sanctions for the filing of a chargesheet and initiating prosecution were not contemplated by the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

Details on Page 12

Markets in freefall; Sensex sinks 1,400 pts

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty wilted under selling pressure for the third straight day on Friday as rising crude prices raised concerns over inflationary pressures and global economic stability amid the widening conflict in West Asia.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,579.82 points, or 2 per cent, to 74,454.60 during intra-day trade. The benchmark finally settled at 74,563.92, down 1,470.50 points, or 1.93 per cent.

Details on Page 15

Sasikala announces party name and symbol

Two weeks after announcing her intention to launch a political party, VK Sasikala, the long-time aide of late AIADMK supremo J Jayalalithaa, on Friday declared that her outfit will be called the All India Puratchi Thalaivar Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AIPTM-MK). She also said that the party's election symbol will be 'coconut grove'.

Details on Page 12

Former Brazilian Prez Bolsonaro in ICU

Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro has pneumonia and is receiving treatment in an intensive care unit, a hospital in the capital, Brasilia, said Friday.

Earlier in the day, Bolsonaro's eldest son Flavio said on X that his father was being transferred from prison to the hospital after waking up with chills and vomiting.

PADDING UP

KSCA holds mock drill to get IPL-ready, awaits govt response

SNEHA RAMESH & VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government-appointed expert committee conducted a full-scale mock demonstration of the match-day arrangements at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Friday to check the venue's preparedness to host IPL matches.

Multiple sources told *DH* that the Karnataka State Cricket Association had successfully completed many of the safety works that were proposed by the committee. The mock drill was carried out for about two and a half hours in the morning from 9.30 am to 12 noon with over 50 people assisting in the inspection.

According to sources, the gates of the stadium have now been widened to accommodate the crowds and new gates have been added on Cubbon Road.

"The crowd will now shift from Queen's Road to Cubbon Road, which has wider footpaths. The design of the stadium is such that crowds entering from Queen's Road don't have enough holding area for waiting. Now, with new gates on Cubbon Road, the crowd management will be better," one of the sources told *DH*.

The number of cameras have been increased from 160 to 500, sources said.

An official response from the state government, however, is only expected on March 16, a day after the Royal Challengers Bengaluru players begin to assemble at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

KSCA, based on the recommendation of the expert committee, had agreed to take up works in three phases. Sources said that a majority of the works that are supposed to be taken up in phase 1 have been completed.

B K Ventakesh Prasad

"On Friday, KSCA presented a mock-up along with the preparations made. Over the last few days, works have picked up pace. They have identified emergency exits and triage plans are in place. Only final touches like installation of sign boards are pending," yet another source said.

DH had earlier reported that the KSCA was lagging behind in taking up the works and following the reports, the works are said to have been expedited.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday announced the IPL schedule, and said in the accompanying statement that the games in Bengaluru are subject to the approval from the expert committee.

While the final approval seems a mere formality, there is still an air of uncertainty about RCB playing their home matches in Bengaluru.

KSCA, however, appeared confident of the job they have done over the last seven weeks.

"There was a full-scale mock demonstration in the morning and with what was evident, things are looking very promising. We also have an official meeting on March 16," KSCA president B K Ventakesh Prasad told *DH*.

▸ **KSCA, Page 4**

E-khata to be cleared in five days or approved automatically

GBA rolls out fully online system to speed up property document services

BENGALURU, DHNS

E-khata applications not processed within five working days will be automatically approved under a new digital mechanism, said Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue), Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), on Friday.

The move follows complaints that applications were being delayed by revenue officials without giving any reason.

Addressing an orientation programme for Local Private Entrepreneurs (LPEs) on e-khata services at Town Hall, Moudgil said nearly 99 per cent of applications are processed and approved within four to five days through a simplified online system.

He said the fully digital process has been introduced to make issuance of e-khata faster and easier, removing the need for citizens to visit corporation offices.

Special Commissioner Munish Moudgil addresses local private entrepreneurs who will assist citizens in providing e-khata services. PHOTO: GBA

Moudgil advised citizens and LPEs not to approach officials directly or rely on middlemen for khata-related services, as the entire process from application to approval is now online.

On average, applications are approved within three to four days, he said.

During the programme, LPEs were instructed to ensure error-free submission of applications and assist citizens in using the digital platform effectively.

Officials said the entrepreneurs would act as facilitators to help residents navigate the online system and submit accurate applications.

A dedicated grievance portal has also been created for citizens and entrepreneurs to report issues related to the e-khata process.

Complaints can be submitted through the official support portal, while case-related issues can also be raised through the department's WhatsApp helpline. Officials made a presentation on the online application procedure, digital workflow, and service delivery mechanism during the session.

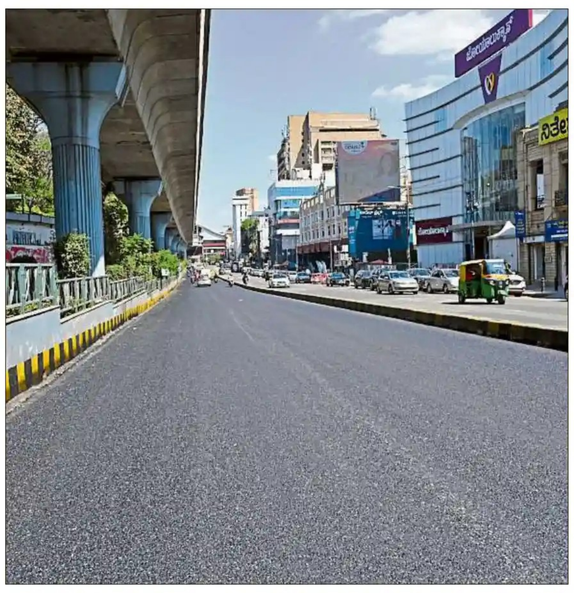
An interactive discussion was also held during which LPEs raised queries on the e-khata process.

Revenue Department officials were directed to examine the suggestions and operational concerns raised during the interaction.

Moudgil said monthly coordination meetings would be conducted with the entrepreneurs to address grievances and operational challenges.

A rejection audit team has also been constituted to review rejected e-khata applications and approve them if they are found to have been wrongly rejected after verification.

Madan Mohan C, Deputy Commissioner (IT-e-Aasthi), Lakshmidevi, Joint Commissioner (Revenue), and other officials were present.



The first layer has been completed on the 1.2-km stretch from Mahatma Gandhi Park to Brigade Road, within the 2.4-km roadwork covering both sides. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

MG Road asphalting work to be completed in 15 days

BENGALURU, DHNS: Asphalting work on the busy MG Road is expected to be completed in 15 days.

Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan on Friday directed officials to complete asphalting works at MG Road at the earliest.

"So far, one layer of asphalting has been completed in the 1.2-kilometre stretch from Mahatma Gandhi Park to Brigade Road, which is 2.4 kilometres, including both sides," a statement from the corporation said.

"The work is carried out at night to avoid disruption to vehicular traffic. Desilting of the drains on the roadside is being carried out during the day."

Cholan also asked officials to accelerate development works at the Mahatma Gandhi Park and complete it within the stipulated time.

"Development works have been undertaken at the Mahatma Gandhi Park at a cost of Rs 4 crore.

"The park will be given a modern touch and developed into an attractive destination for visitors. Facilities such as a dedicated stage for artists, a cottage (library/museum), and other development works will also be taken up," officials said.

Observing the dilapidated condition of Johnson Market, Cholan directed officials to draw up a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to demolish the existing structure and build a new market on an innovative model.

Property auction draws poor response from bidders

BENGALURU, DHNS: Close to 17 property owners cleared pending tax dues amounting to Rs 27.58 lakh just before the Bengaluru South City Corporation began auctioning their properties for non-payment of taxes.

On Friday, the corporation conducted an auction of 50 properties within its jurisdiction that had failed to pay property tax despite multiple notices and proclamation letters.

While 17 property owners cleared their dues ahead of the auction, 33 properties still remain in default. However, due to a lack of bidder response, none of the properties could be auctioned. The corporation has decided to conduct another auction soon.

Meanwhile, under the Bengaluru North City Corporation limits, 81 properties were listed for auction on Friday. However, there were no bidders for any of these properties either. The corporation has now decided to conduct a fresh auction.

Violin concert today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The M A Narasimhachar Music Foundation and Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will present a violin solo concert by VV Ravi (Chennai) with Nikshith Puttur (mridangam) and Trichy Murali (ghatam) at 5.30 pm on Saturday at SRLKM Hall, 9th Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage.

East Corporation to clear GAIL road-cutting permissions

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru East City Corporation is likely to start processing applications seeking permission to cut roads for laying gas pipelines.

At a meeting held on Friday, Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh learnt that GAIL had submitted 51 applications, crucial to provide connectivity to households. He instructed the engineers concerned to immediately review the road-cutting requests and process them on priority.

With regard to Census 2027 preparations, the commissioner instructed the officers to prepare draft maps consisting of three blocks covering around 150 to 200 houses per polling station list as part of the house-listing process.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Sri Kumudendu Muni-authored Siribhuvalaya Study Workshop: Dr Ahalya S, Padmini Padmaraj, Paranjyoti to attend; Karnataka Sanskrit University; 9.30 am.

Seminar: 'SIR: What has happened in 13 states? What should Karnataka do?'; Yogendra Yadav, Rahul Shastri, Avik Saha to participate; Kondajji Basappa Hall; 10.30 am.

Lecture; 'Globalisation in Everyday Life: Work, Media and Aspirations of Indian Youth': Manjula V, Rekha Kaushik PR to attend; BES Arts and Commerce Evening College; 7 pm.

CULTURAL

Swara Mayura Nada Dance Festival: Bharatanatyam performance and group singing by Kaladeepa team; AV Srinivasan Guruji to attend; RK Padmanabha to present vocal recital; Patti Hall, Ram Mandir, NR Colony; 2.45 pm.

Play: 'Adaddella Olite..?'; Directed by Pramod Shiggaon; Creative Theatre troupe to perform; Ranga Shankara; 3.30 pm & 7.30 pm.

Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha: Pragnya A Udupa to perform; PC Subramanyam, Jayanthi M to attend; Sanjay Shantaram, Radhika MK Swamy, Karthik Vaidhatri to present music concert; Chamara Vajra; 5.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly clear sky; partly cloudy towards afternoon or evening

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	33.2°C
Minimum	20.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	35%
Sunset (March 14)	6:30 pm
Sunrise (Mar 16)	6:29 am
Moonrise	2:03 am
Moonset	1:31 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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CBC 10803/11/0032/2526

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प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

सं0सं0–13 / नि0वि0(विविध)–06 / 2025–87 / नि0 रांची, दिनांक–12 / 03 / 2026

संस्था निबंधन अधिनियम, 1860 की धारा–4 एवं झारखण्ड संस्था निबंधन नियमावली, 2025 की धारा–8 तथा विभागीय जाँच पत्रक में दिए गए निर्देश के अन्तर्गत सभी निबंधित संस्थाओं को वर्ष में एक बार आम सभा की सहमति से वार्षिक अंकेक्षण प्रतिवेदन, क्रियाकलाप संबंधी प्रतिवेदन, कार्यकारिणी की अद्यतन सूची, संस्था में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों का ब्यौरा संबंधित प्रपत्र–'क' एवं राज्य सरकार, केन्द्र सरकार तथा विदेश से प्राप्त राशि से संबंधित प्रतिवेदन प्रपत्र–'ख' तथा अन्य दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन माध्यम से विभागीय वेबसाईट–https://enibandhan.jharkhand.gov.in/ में अपलोड की जानी है। इस निमित्त डाक से समर्पित किए गए प्रतिवेदन अस्वीकार्य है।

संबंधित प्रतिवेदन ससमय अपलोड़ नहीं किए जाने पर संस्था के विरूद्ध संस्था निबंधन अधिनियम, 1860 एवं झारखण्ड संस्था निबंधन नियमावली, 2025 के तहत अर्थदण्ड / निबंधन रद्दीकरण संबंधी कार्रवाई का प्रावधान है।

उक्त प्रतिवेदन अपलोड करने हेतु पूर्व में संस्थाओं को User ID एवं Password विभाग द्वारा निर्गत किया गया था। किन्तु कतिपय संस्थाओं द्वारा ससमय वांछित प्रतिवेदन अपलोड नहीं किया जा रहा है, साथ ही विभाग को काफी संस्थाओं द्वारा User ID एवं Password प्रदान किए जाने का अनुरोध अब भी प्राप्त हो रहा है।

सम्यक विचारोपरांत इस संबंध में पुनः यथानिदेशित सभी संबंधित संस्थाओं को इस प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि विभाग से User ID एवं Password से प्राप्त करने हेतु विभागीय वेबसाईट–https://enibandhan.jharkhand.gov.in/ पर ऑनलाईन आवेदन आवश्यक रूप से दिनांक–16.03.2026 से 30.04.2026 तक समर्पित की जाए। उक्त तिथि के पश्चात User ID एवं Password विभाग द्वारा निर्गत नहीं किया जाएगा एवं संस्था द्वारा संबंधित प्रतिवेदन अपलोड नहीं किए जाने की स्थिति में अर्थदण्ड / निबंधन रद्दीकरण संबंधी कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

ह0 / –
(श्वेता कुमारी)
उप निबंधन महानिरीक्षक

PR 375025 (Registration)25-26*D

National Capital Region Planning Board

(A Statutory Body under Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India)
1st Floor, Core-4B, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

File No. : E-9191854

Applications are invited from willing and eligible candidates for the following posts in the National Capital Region Planning Board as per details given below:-

Name of Posts	No. of Post/ Category	Method of Recruitment	Scale of pay
Assistant Director (Technical)	01 (OBC-NCL)	Direct Recruitment	Pay Level-10 (₹ 56,100-1,77,500) as per 7th CPC pay matrix.
Planning Assistant	01 (UR)	Direct Recruitment	PayLevel-6(₹ 35,400-1,12,400) as per 7th CPC pay matrix.

Application in the prescribed format, duly completed in all respects and signed by the candidate with self-attested copies of testimonials etc., along with IPO/ Demand Draft for ₹ 100 (non-refundable) drawn in favour of NCR Planning Board payable at New Delhi towards Application Fee should reach the Member Secretary, NCR Planning Board, 1st Floor, Core-4B, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003. The Application Fee can also be paid online.

Details such as eligibility criteria, educational qualifications, age, format of application form, online fee payment details and last date of receipt of applications etc. are available on our website **https://ncrpb.nic.in.**

The Board reserves the right not to fill up the above posts without assigning any reason.

AD (Tech.) Planning Assistant Sd/- (Member Secretary)

CBC 44103/12/0006/2526

PROVISION OF REDUNDANCY

E-Tender Notice No. N-2025-26-TSK-NIT-38; Dated: 06-03-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **SN. 1**; **E-Tender No.**: N-2025-26-TSK-T-38. **Brief Description of Work:** Provision of redundancy in power supply and media redundancy for BPAC in Tinsukia Division. Tender Value: ₹1,73,24,675.84; Earnest Money: ₹2,36,600.00; E-tender will be **closed** at 15:00 hrs. on 30-03-2026 and **Opened** after 15:00 hrs. on 30-03-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in.

DRM (S&T), Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum 1 to Tender Notice No. CN/02/2026 Dated: 04.03.2026

In the above mentioned tender notice (Tender No. 56251090) Quantity under 2.1 Item details has been enhanced from 338.00 kms to 769.00 kms.

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Material Manager/Construction/ Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/997/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION WORK

Tender Notice No. TRD/LMG/34 of 2025-26; Dated: 11-03-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No:** EL-TRD-NFR-LMG-Shed-55; **Name of work:** Railway Electrification work for design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 25 kV, 50 Hz, single phase electrification works (OHE, TSS, SCADA works) in Electric Loco Trip Shed, Lumding (0.00RKM/1.50TKM). Advertised Value: ₹2,38,11,080.64; Earnest Money: ₹2,69,100.00. **E-tender will be closed at** 15:30 hrs. on 03-04-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. DEE/TRD/Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 222-S/1/W-II, dated 11.03.2026. Following e-tenders are invited online by Sr. Divisional Engineer/I, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following works : **Tender No.: TN-195-25-26. Name of the Work :** Platform at Dakshineswar platform 1 and platform 2 can be extended to 600 meter. **Tender Value :** Rs. 5,12,95,416.05. **EMD:** Rs. 4,06,500/-. **Completion period for the work :** 9 months. **Date & time of closing of tender :** 07.04.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date & time of opening of tender:** 07.04.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The tender document and other details are available at **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected.

(SDAH-437/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

S. E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/08, dated 13.03.2026. Open e-Tenders for "E" Procurement system are invited by Principal Chief Materials Manager, S.E.Railway, Headquarters Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India, which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be closed at 14.00 hrs.

Sl.No.	Tender No.	Closing Date	Brief Description	Qty.	EMD (in ₹)
1	HB265409	25.03.2026	Inj. Insulin Degludec 100 IU/ml, 3 ml Flextouch etc.	4860 Flextouch	1,58,560/-
2	47255020	06.04.2026	Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of Automatic supply Change Over color light signaling panel, 150 Amps etc.	74 Nos.	1,97,470/-
3	38263196	31.03.2026	POH kit tor PowRGuard Draft Gear consisting of 10 items.	80 Set	1,16,860/-
4	60260074	30.03.2026	Manufacture and Supply of Composite Grooved Rubber Sole Plates 6.2 mm thick for 60kg etc.	500000 Nos.	2,04,500/-
5	33260098	15.04.2026	Mobile contact assembly etc.	1940 Set	2,58,360/-
6	33263154	13.04.2026	Earthing Cable complete 95 Sq. mm etc.	6580 Nos.	1,60,390/-
7	25261245A	27.03.2026	AC BLOWER MOTOR MVRF FOR DBR.	36 Nos.	NIL
8	29250058A	30.03.2026	ASSOCIATED COMPONENTS OF MACHINED STATOR ASSLY.	48 Set	1,54,870/-
9	18253031A	30.03.2026	GP RELAY, 3 N.O+3 N.C, INTERLOCK CONTACTS - 48V DC.	422 Nos.	1,45,890/-
10	29255129	03.04.2026	Set of Dampers as per CLW's Specn.	35 Set	1,99,270/-
11	60260004	31.03.2026	Manufacture and Supply of Elastic Rail Clips (ERC-J).	500000 Nos.	9,55,700/-
12	IF265172	31.03.2026	CASNUB -22 HS CAST STEEL BOGIE WITH FRICTION DAMPING ARRANGEMENT.	33 Nos.	3,11,520/-
13	IF256183A	31.03.2026	Design, Supply and commissioning of friction buffer Stop	22 Nos.	3,99,780/-
14	OE265058	06.04.2026	TRACTION MOTOR COMPLETE WITH PINION etc.	05 Nos.	3,60,150/-

Under Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Adra :

Sl.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Opening date	EMD (in ₹)
1	IE265188	3 x 300 Sq mm 6.35/11 KV Grade HT Three Core Power Cable	1500 Mtrs.	13.04.2026 at 14.00 hrs.	1,27,860/-

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B. :** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR-1300)**

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E-AUCTION FOR SLR PARCEL VAN OVER RANCHI DIVISION

No. : C/RNC/E-Auction/2026 **Dated : 13.03.2026**

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, S.E.Railway, Ranchi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-Auction over Ranchi Division. The catalogue has already been published on IREPS website. The details are as under : **Category :** Parcel. **Catalogue No. :** RNCPARCEL-9. **Assets details:** e-Auction for 34 Nos. of assets for leasing of SLR compartments by 32 numbers of Passenger/Mail Express trains originating from Ranchi Division. **Auction start :** 27.03.2026 at 10.00 hrs. **Auction closed:** 27.03.2026 at 16.00 hrs. **Note:** Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website **(www.ireps.gov.in).** The Lotwise details are available thereunder the above-mentioned catalogue. **(PR-1301)**

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Ranchi
South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DME), MEGHALAYA
GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
PASTEUR HILLS, SHILLONG
Email ID: pasteurinstituteshil@gmail.com Tel No. 0364-2591510 / 94851 06663

No.DHSME&R/SMC/H.Res/148/2025-26/1144 Dtd: Shillong, the 11th March, 2026

NOTICE

The office of the Director of Health Services Medical Education & Research (DME) invites applications from eligible In-Service Doctors for the post of **Assistant Professors, Senior Resident** and **Tutor / Demonstrator** in various disciplines at Shillong Medical College.

Interested and eligible candidates are requested to visit the following website for detailed information:

https://www.meghealth.gov.in

Date and time of Interview will be intimidated accordingly.

Sd/-
Director of Health Services
Medical Education & Research (DME),
Pasteur Hills, Meghalaya, Shillong

MIPR No. : 3018
Dated : 11-03-2026

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION, Construction & Maintenance Group
ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC) Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058, Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094178, 4185, 4541, 4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works in NIT by **Group Head,** ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Ph:080-2809 4541, 4178).

Name of work	**Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 01 No. Passsenger Lift and CAMC of lift for 10 years at CISF Barrack, DOS ISRO Housing Colony, Jalahalli, Bengaluru.**	**Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Split A/C Units for Offices, MSA CAD/CAE Lab & Meeting Room at SCC, ISTRAC, Bengaluru.**	**Providing Air Conditioning Units for Integration Lab at RDA Ground Floor, SCC, Campus, ISTRAC, Peenya, Bengaluru.**
E-tender Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/MECH/CON/E-Tender-119/2025-26 Dated: 13.03.2026**	**ISTRAC/CMG/A.C/MAINT//E-Tender-120/2025-26 Dated: 13.03.2026**	**ISTRAC/CMG/A.C/MAINT//E-Tender-122/2025-26 Dated: 13.03.2026**
Estimated Cost put to Tender	**Rs. 25.03 Lakhs for Part (a) Rs. 24.32 Lakhs for Part (b)**	**Rs. 9.13 Lakhs**	**Rs. 18.48 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tenders**		
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of issue of work order	**03 Months for Part (a) 10 Years for Part (b) post completion of 1 year warranty period**	**02 Months**	**02 Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs on 14.03.2026 to 28.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**	**From 16.00 hrs on 14.03.2026 to 25.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**	**From 16.00 hrs on 14.03.2026 to 28.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**
Bid Clarification	**From 11.00 hrs on 15.03.2026 to 29.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**	**From 11.00 hrs on 15.03.2026 to 26.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**	**From 11.00 hrs on 15.03.2026 to 29.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time of reply to Bid Clarification	**30.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	**27.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	**30.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date and time receipt of tenders	**01.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	**28.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	**01.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.** for
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	**02.04.2026 up to 11.00 hrs.**	**30.03.2026 up to 11.00 hrs.**	**02.04.2026 up to 11.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 50,056/-**	**Rs. 18,260/-**	**Rs. 36,960/-**

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) **Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** on the website **www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

Fraudulent digital arrest attempt using city police ID

BENGALURU, DHNS: Fraudsters attempted a "digital arrest" scam, impersonating the city police and sending forged documents to a woman.

They first called her, claiming her mother was under investigation, then switched to a video call asking for her home location.

To appear legitimate, they sent fake documents allegedly from the Supreme Court and Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, along with a bogus CID Karnataka report and papers in the woman's name, Naina.

The documents allegedly carried the seal and signature of Seemant Kumar Singh.

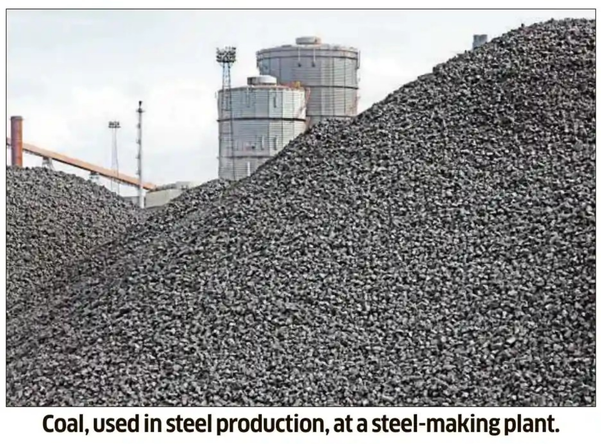
However, after examining the documents, the woman grew suspicious and immediately contacted the police.

She later filed an online complaint on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

India, Aus researchers use farm waste to partly replace coal in green steel

Rice husk pellets generate sustained syngas with no performance loss

BENGALURU, DHNS



Coal, used in steel production, at a steel-making plant.

In what has been described as a world-first trial, researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, have demonstrated a viable method to reduce steelmaking emissions by partially replacing coal with agricultural waste.

The breakthrough offers a scalable pathway to cut emissions in India and brings the steel industry a step closer to producing green steel.

It confirms that the approach can work at commercial scale — a significant advance in decarbonising iron and steel production, a sector responsible for roughly one-tenth of global carbon emissions, according to a media release.

Using indigenously developed methods to create rice husk pellets, the team successfully validated sustained production of biomass-derived syngas for iron ore reduction at a large-scale commercial steelworks in India. This was achieved in partnership with RESCONS Solutions Pvt Ltd, a commercial steel innovator incubated at the Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID) at IISc, the release added.

Funded by the Australian Government's India-Australia Green Steel Research Partnership, the researchers conducted a full-scale trial at Jindal Steel in Odisha. They blended 5% and 10% (energy basis) rice husk pellets into Jindal Steel's gasifiers, achieving sustained syngas production with no loss of performance, the release noted.

If adopted nationwide, biomass utilisation could reduce steel sector emissions by up to 50%, equivalent to approximately 357 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

The team has also published an interactive online map of India's steelmaking infrastructure overlaid with regional biomass availability, allowing users to identify key facilities and assess supply opportunities. The map is accessible at https://new-map-main.vercel.app/.

Future work will expand to smaller regional steelmaking facilities and a wider range of biomass sources, including integrated systems that produce both food and steel feed.

Using biomass in steel production nationwide could cut emissions by up to 50%, saving around 357 million tonnes of CO_2 each year.

This research is expected to accelerate the adoption of biomass in steelmaking, delivering major emissions reductions, improving air quality, and supporting regional economic development in India.

"Conventional steel production is highly carbon-intensive, but process innovations like biomass gasification and hydrogen reduction can drastically lower emissions," an IISc spokesperson said, according to the release.

DGP Alok Kumar presented roses and sweets to the released convicts, inspiring them to embrace a fresh chapter in life.

14 life convicts released from Parappana Agrahara prison

BENGALURU, DHNS: Fourteen life convicts were released from the Bengaluru Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara on Friday under the government's premature release order.

In total, 30 life convicts lodged in different prisons in Karnataka were granted premature release following the recommendations of the Life Convict Review (LCR) Committee, which examined 54 cases and selected inmates based on good conduct.

The order was issued by the state government with the Governor's approval under Article 161 of the Constitution.

Alok Kumar, DGP, Prisons and Correctional Services, said the department is focusing on the reintegration and reformation of inmates, so they return to society as responsible citizens.

"We want them to step out as better human beings and be useful to their families and society", he said.

He added that the prison department has launched a new initiative in collaboration with India Justice, an NGO, to help released prisoners reintegrate into society.

Authorities will also assist them in independent employment opportunities and monitor their progress for one year after their release.

Bomb remark lands IndiGo passenger in trouble at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS: A casual mention of the word "bomb" during an argument with airline staff has landed a passenger in serious legal trouble at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The incident occurred at Terminal 1 on Wednesday, when an IndiGo flight was scheduled to depart from Bengaluru to Raipur.

According to the FIR, the passenger, Rajatesh Bera, 40, arrived late at Gate 16, after the boarding process had already closed.

When airline staff refused to allow him to board due to the delay, Bera allegedly questioned them, asking whether the flight would only be delayed if there was a "bomb in the aircraft" and whether that was why the flight had not been grounded.

Airport authorities treated the remark as a serious security concern.

Even a casual reference to a bomb inside an airport or aircraft is treated as a potential threat to aviation safety and can trigger security protocols.

A senior police officer said that following the incident, a complaint was lodged by airline staff and Bera was taken into custody for interrogation. He was later released on station bail.

Bera, a native of West Bengal and a musician, told police during interrogation he had no intention of threatening the staff and had only made the remark casually while asking them about not allowing him to board the flight.

KSRTC to induct 805 Karnataka Sarige, local buses by June

BENGALURU, DHNS

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and KSRTC MD Akram Pasha at the flagging-off of the new Pallakki buses in the city on Friday. PHOTO: KSRTC

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will induct 805 new Karnataka Sarige and city/rural transport buses by June this year.

On Friday, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy flagged off 70 new Pallakki (non-AC sleeper) and 45 Sarige (non-AC seater) buses, expanding the KSRTC fleet to nearly 9,000, one of the largest in the country.

The 45 new buses add to the KSRTC's existing fleet of 5,904 Sarige vehicles.

The Pallakki buses will operate on routes connecting Udupi, Mangaluru, Mysuru, Dharmasthala, Sringeri, Horanadu, Agumbe, Chikkamagaluru, Davangere, Chitradurga, Hampi, Raichur, Jamkhandi, Puttur, Kaniyoor, Kukke Subrahmanya, Kasaragod, Mantralaya, Tiruchirappalli, Kozhikode, Munnar, Puducherry, Thanjavur, Kottayam, Hyderabad, Chennai, Panaji, Madurai, Kumbakonam and Ernakulam, according to the KSRTC.

The buses were flagged off at an event to celebrate International Women's Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Reddy said Karnataka's four Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) had approximately 1.04 lakh employees, of whom 8,956 are women.

Among them are 3,167 conductors, 2,254 technical staff and 3,535 administrative staff.

Since 2023, the KSRTC has appointed 77 women on compassionate grounds in various posts, he noted.

Under the Shakti free bus travel scheme, a total of 688.83 crore rides have been provided as of March 12, the minister added.

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FREE KADAI WITH LID
upto 36% OFF
EMI starts @ ₹2,999*
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upto 16% OFF
EMI starts @ ₹1,299*
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iPhone
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TROUBLE IN TECH?

Electric buses parked at the BMTC's Subhash Nagar depot (number 7) at Majestic on Friday. The depot serves 66 electric buses, both AC and non-AC, and has 23 charging ports. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Why BMTC's big e-bus push is not without risks

Most vehicles in Bengaluru's public transport agency will go electric in coming years but questions remain over their efficiency and reliability

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Mumbai has local trains, Delhi the metro — but what is Bengaluru's true public transport lifeline? With a daily ridership of just over a million in a city with nearly 15 million people, Namma Metro is not really a lifeline, at least not yet.

In a city obsessed with personal vehicles, the role played by Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses in carrying large numbers of people often goes unnoticed.

However, BMTC buses still face a reputation problem. Given a choice, few Bengalureans would travel by BMTC's noisy, polluting and overcrowded buses. But this perception is slowly changing as BMTC adds plush, noiseless and comfortable buses.

In traffic-choked Bengaluru, BMTC buses carry 4.5 million passengers per day, transporting everyone from garment factory workers to IT professionals in the city's tech hubs.

In the next few years, Bengaluru is set to have over 10,000 city buses to become the city with most buses. Over 6,500 of them will be electric. The potential sounds great but there are simmering worries underneath.

Unlike diesel buses, which are outright purchased, the BMTC leases electric buses under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC). The manufacturer provides full operations — including charging infrastructure, maintenance facilities and service readiness — under a unified contract structure. The BMTC pays on a per-kilometre basis and deploys the conductor. The contract typically lasts 12 years.

Despite the BMTC's pivot to electric buses (it currently has 1,730 e-buses in a fleet of 7,152), it continues to face serious operational challenges.

Electric buses frequently experience breakdowns due to suspension/steering and battery issues, along with poor maintenance, inadequate driver training, bus and driver shortages, and occasional driver strikes. These result in trip cancellations and revenue losses.

On October 14, 2025, traffic came to a standstill along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) for over four hours after an AC bus broke down near a busy intersection. Attempts to tow the bus with a crane failed because its steering had jammed. A traffic police investigation later found the breakdown was caused by a brake issue.

Two weeks later, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy addressed a press conference to complain that electric buses were giving the BMTC "a bad name." He wrote two letters to central PSU Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), which manages the allocation and oversight of electric bus contract execution.

Reddy sought a thorough evaluation of all GCC operators and a joint compliance monitoring mechanism between State Transport Undertakings (STUs) and the ministry concerned.

But nearly six months later, he said, most of the issues remain unresolved.

"We wrote two letters but there's no resolution. The ministry called a meeting with bus manufacturers and gave them a 45-day deadline to fix the issues. But there's been no let-up. We need reliable buses," he told *DH*.

According to him, trip cancellations involving e-buses are frequent. "Out of let's say 190 km assured daily kilometres, they run only 130-140 km," he added.

Karnataka has now asked for clarifications about electric bus reliability in the new contracts under the PM E-Drive Scheme, under which the BMTC will receive another 4,500 buses in the next few years.

"We'll have to pay 90% of the lease amount. Manufacturers want an exit clause but we can't be left in the lurch," Reddy noted.

A senior BMTC official with direct knowledge of the e-bus operations flagged the root cause of the problem — bus manufacturers did not accurately assess battery capacity requirements, Bengaluru traffic conditions or the load factor.

"They assumed a certain power requirement (in kWh) and battery life would be sufficient for a given number of kilometres. But the power requirement is not sustaining the vehicles because of our high load factor (80%) and heavy traffic flow," the official explained.

While manufacturers have addressed issues related to driver strikes and battery performance to some extent, buses older than three years continue to face problems. Breakdowns remain frequent, he added.

To compensate for revenue losses, BMTC imposed a penalty of Rs 25 crore on the four companies that supplied the electric buses. The penalties are being adjusted against lease payments, he said.

A BMTC staffer at the Subhash Nagar (Majestic) depot explained how the technical issues affect operations.

"Our first-shift buses need to depart from the depot at 6 am but many electric buses face half-hour delays, which has a cascading effect on the day's operations. The traffic situation makes it worse," he said.

In contrast, night-service e-buses do not face such issues because traffic is lighter, he noted.

The depot serves 66 electric buses and has 23 charging ports — 14 for AC buses and nine for non-AC buses.

A full charge takes up to two hours and lasts about 200 km, as per the battery capacity. Opportunity charging takes about 45 minutes and lasts 60 km, the staffer said.

The senior BMTC official quoted earlier said electric buses were attractive because they were cheaper to operate than diesel vehicles.

"What we really need are stable operations and good driver skills. Manufacturers should demonstrate professionalism in bus operations and maintenance, including battery and crew management," he said.

At the same time, the official cautioned that since EV technology is relatively new, "everyone must wait and watch."

An analyst who has tracked the EV sector for over two decades believes very few manufacturers have been able to deliver truly top-quality buses.

"In the auto industry, extensive testing and iterative improvements take a long time. Manufacturers in India are still at a relatively nascent stage compared to global players like BYD, whose systems have been tested and deployed in China for decades," he explained.

According to the analyst, developing a top-quality product typically requires at least five years of testing, but to accelerate launches some companies release buses before they are fully tested.

"As a result, the first few batches often face problems. Until an improved iteration is introduced, such issues tend to persist. With limited testing, manufacturers may underestimate several aspects — from hardware and software quality to traffic conditions and load factors," he said.

Many manufacturers have been introducing electric buses rapidly, often relying mainly on workshop-level R&D rather than extensive on-road trials.

"Even if a bus runs about 50,000 kilometres a year, it takes time to accumulate meaningful data. To validate reliability, vehicles typically need to run three to five lakh kilometres under varying loads and traffic conditions," he added.

Still, the analyst believes moving to EVs is a good idea, particularly in the current global context where many countries are grappling with energy security concerns.

He also said leasing was better than buying the buses because manufacturers could be held accountable for operational problems.

"The responsibility for vehicle quality, reliability and efficiency then lies with the manufacturer or operator. Otherwise, there is always a risk that suppliers may cut corners."

The state government is developing a strategy to address issues in e-bus operations and will raise its concerns with the highest authorities, said NV Prasad, Secretary, Transport Department.

For a city that depends on buses more than any other mode of public transport, ensuring that its electric fleet runs reliably may prove just as important as expanding it.

Electric buses

- No of vehicles: **1,730**
- No of drivers: **3,000**
- Bus-staff ratio: **2**
- Breakdowns: **16,131**
- Revenue lost: **Rs 92.89 lakh**
- Accidents: **0.07** per lakh kilometres
- E-bus trip cancellations: **20-30%**
- Penalty imposed on bus makers: **Rs 25.51 cr**

Diesel buses

- No of vehicles: **5,422**
- Bus staff ratio: **4.66**
- Bus breakdowns: **122**
- Accidents: **0.05** per lakh kilometres
- E-bus trip cancellations: **2%**

Cost and capacity

Bus maker	Cost / km	Assured daily kilo-metres	Battery capacity
NTPC-JBM	Rs 51.67	180 km	-
Switch Mobility	Rs 48.9	225 km	-
TML (Tata)	Rs 41.01	200 km	298 kWh
OHM Global	Rs 65.8	225 km	283 kWh

- BMTC also spends **Rs 14/km** on conductors and **Rs 5** on maintenance.
- When operated for less than **180 km/day,** the BMTC pays half of this sum for every km not utilised.

What are the issues with e-buses?

Frequent breakdowns due to:
- Suspension/steering, driver motor and tyre puncture problems
- Battery issues
- High trip cancellations
- Poor driver training
- Relatively higher accident rates

Cost per km

- Non-AC: **Rs 78**
- Vajra: **Rs 90**
- Vayu Vajra: **Rs 84**

RAMALINGA REDDY
Transport Minister

"Trip cancellations involving e-buses are frequent. Out of let's say 190 km assured daily kilometres, they run only 130-140 km.

INDUSTRY ANALYST

"Developing a top-notch e-bus requires at least five years of testing. However, to accelerate product launches, some companies may release buses before they are fully tested or all issues are resolved. With less experience and limited testing, manufacturers tend to underestimate hardware and software quality as well as traffic conditions and load factors.

Under the PM E-Drive scheme, BMTC will get 4,500 low-floor e-buses

Non-AC: 4,100
3,500: 12m, 600: 9m

AC: 400
300: 12m, 100: 9m

Previously, BMTC received **1,311 electric buses** under the Smart Cities Mission and **FAME I** and **FAME II** schemes

Feedback: pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

METRO

Match global levels: Minister tells varsities

BENGALURU, DHNS: Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar advised state-run institutions to maintain standards on par with international ones to compete with foreign and private universities.

The minister was speaking during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the British Council and Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) to strengthen collaboration in education, skill and cultural exchange.

"In the coming years, state universities will face tough competition from foreign universities. Hence, maintaining high academic excellence is essential," he said.

"As a large number of our students are from rural backgrounds, collaborations with international universities will provide them broader academic exposure," he said.

This glaucoma variant is severe enough to cause blindness, warn doctors

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ophthalmologists have expressed concerns over neovascular glaucoma, a severe secondary form of glaucoma caused by abnormal blood vessel growth in the eye that can lead to vision loss.

Dr Amod Nayak, head of clinical services at an eye hospital in Bengaluru, explained the difference between regular and neovascular glaucoma.

"Neovascular glaucoma occurs when abnormal blood vessels grow on the iris and drainage angles of the eye, blocking fluid outflow and causing a rapid rise in eye pressure."

He said neovascular glaucoma is often linked to conditions such as diabetes or retinal vein occlusion, unlike traditional glaucoma, which is usually related to gradual pressure build-up. It can leave the patient with a painful blind eye.

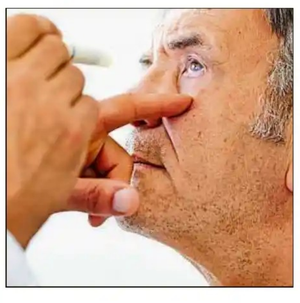
India faces a major eye health challenge with preventable blindness across all age groups. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that approximately 63 million people are visually impaired, including eight million who are totally blind.

Neovascular glaucoma is asymptomatic in the early stages, making early detection difficult.

Dr Shruthi S, a glaucoma consultant, said: "The early stages are asymptomatic. Pain appears only in later stages, which will by then be very difficult to treat blindness. It is mostly the result of diabetic neuropathy. People with diabetes need regular eye checkups. During the Covid pandemic, many people could not get their eyes checked, which increased the cases of neovascular glaucoma."

Regarding tests available to understand glaucoma, Dr Ajinkya Deshmukh, consultant ophthalmologist, said: "Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) is extremely valuable as it helps doctors assess the structure of the optic nerve in detail, including thickness and any early nerve damage. Visual field analysis evaluates the function of the optic nerve by detecting any loss of peripheral vision. Together, it provides a comprehensive understanding of both structural and functional changes in glaucoma."

Heredity is another contributing factor to glaucoma, Dr Sujani Shroff, glaucoma consultant, said. "When patients are diagnosed with glaucoma, we immediately advise them to have their blood relatives checked."



THE SILENT THREAT

- Unlike traditional glaucoma that develops gradually from pressure buildup in the eye, neovascular glaucoma is usually triggered by underlying conditions such as diabetes or retinal vein occlusion
- It occurs when abnormal new blood vessels grow on the iris and the eye's drainage angle, blocking the outflow of fluid. This causes a rapid rise in eye pressure.
- In advanced stages, the condition can result in a painful, blind eye.

Panel to BU: Strengthen alumni network, seek help in fundraising

BENGALURU, DHNS

To overcome a shortage of finances, Bangalore University (BU) has decided to strengthen its alumni network and seek their assistance in fundraising.

This is one of the ideas pitched by the committee constituted to frame the Institutional Development Plan (IDP) for the next five years.

The committee, which presented its report recently, said that university alumni hold prominent positions in academia, industry, and public administration, and that strengthening the alumni network would help the university in various ways.

"Alumni hold influential positions in academia, industry, public administration and research organisations. Regular alumni engagement programmes will help mentorship, fundraising and internship opportunities. There are alumni who are contributing to national initiatives in technology, education and sustainability. Alumni financial assistance should be utilised to strengthen the infrastructure at university departments," the report reads.

University authorities said the recommendations are valid and will be incorporated to overcome the current financial constraints.

The committee recommended ensuring fiscal strength through diversified revenue sources, optimising fund use via performance-based budgeting, establishing self-sustaining programmes, controlling expenditure, and upgrading the e-office for transparency and accountability.

Key recommendations

- Introduce online courses for fund mobilisation.
- Seek funding from government agencies (UGC, ATAL Incubation Centre, PM-USHA, NSDC).
- Obtain research grants through collaborations with leading institutions in emerging areas.
- Mobilise finances through NGOs.
- Rent out university auditoriums, seminar halls, and guest house facilities.
- Generate revenue through patent commercialisation and consultancy.
- Introduce innovative skill-based courses and programmes.
- Establish corporate partnerships and academic collaborations.
- Provide research and lab facilities to external organisations on a revenue basis.
- Launch executive programmes for working professionals.
- Reduce exam expenditure through remote valuation and digital processes.
- Reschedule working hours to allow students to pursue part-time work, additional degrees, or competitive exam preparation.

Bescom warns against misuse of domestic power

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bescom has warned citizens against the use of domestic power connections for commercial purposes.

In a statement, Bescom noted that electricity connections obtained under the domestic tariff (LT-1) are being misused for shops, commercial establishments, industries, guest houses, service apartments, paying guest accommodations, offices and similar purposes.

Such unauthorised connections will immediately be cut down and legal action will be initiated, Bescom said.

"Misuse of domestic electricity connections will attract legal action under Sections 126 and 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003, and Section 42 and its sub-sections of the Electricity Supply Regulations," the statement said.

Consumers who are using domestic electricity connections for non-domestic purposes can visit the nearest Bescom sub-division office and apply for a change to the appropriate tariff category. The consumers are also advised not to use domestic electricity connections during festivals, celebrations or religious events.

"For such occasions, consumers should apply at the concerned sub-division office and obtain a temporary electricity connection," the statement further said.

Improvement exams for II PU restricted to 2 yrs

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of School Education and Literacy has issued an order restricting improvement examinations for all second PUC students to two years.

As per the order, students, including freshers, private students, and repeaters, have the opportunity to appear for improvement examinations during the year they registered for the Board exams and in the next academic year.

A similar measure was implemented for SSLC students last year.

Trek organisers seek new trek trails, but Forest dept not keen

17 treks across Karnataka closed fearing wildfires

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the Forest Department banning 17 trek trails across Karnataka as the peak summer approaches, trek enthusiasts are turning to one-day treks around Bengaluuru and in North India, organisers said.

Trek organisers are also seeking permission for new trek trails across the state.

"We have submitted a representation to Aranya Bhavan seeking permission to allow us to open a few more trekking trails, especially waterfall treks, which are suitable for the current weather conditions," Chandrashekar Madivalar, a trek organiser, told *DH*.

Some of the trails that can be opened are Aghanashini's Unchalli, Burude and Arasinagundi waterfall treks, he added.

A Forest Department official confirmed the request but said the department was unlikely to permit opening new trek trails.

Choosing other treks

The department has closed the treks fearing wildfires during the summer season. Western Ghats treks, including Kumara Parvata, Kyatanamakki, Narasimha Parvatha, Netravati, Kodachadri, Kudremukh, Bandaje, Meruthi Gudda, Nishani Motte, Z Point and Kurinjal Trek have all been closed.

An areal view of Kumara Parvata in Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary in Dakshina Kannada. Trekking in Kumara Parvata, also known as 'king of treks', is banned following the wildfire threat during peak summer. DH FILE PHOTO

Rithvik Bharadwaj, a trek organiser, said, "We are facing an impact on our business due to the closure of treks in the Western Ghats. As an alternative, we have come up with one-day treks around Bengaluru. For adventure seekers, we have organised Gokarna Beach and Dandeli treks."

A good option

Though Dandeli has few hikes, a combination of adventurous activities makes it a good option for the season, he added.

Lahari L, another trek organiser, said: "Skandagiri, Savandurga, Makalidurga, Uttara Betta and Antharagange are the most-chosen treks currently."

But while the summer sets in Karnataka, the fresh snow season in parts of North India seems to be the crowd favourite, trek organisers said.

"Kedarnath is set to open. So far, we have had a lot of bookings for Kuari Pass trek," said Chandrashekar.

Centre assures support to tobacco growers

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy said on Friday that Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has directed senior officials in his ministry to hold discussions with tobacco-buying companies and take necessary measures to support the growers.

Kumaraswamy led a delegation of state leaders from the Mysuru region and discussed the problems of Karnataka's tobacco growers with the minister. He said Goyal promised them that steps would be taken to resume tobacco procurement from Monday (March 16).

"Goyal responded positively to several key demands of the growers, including the immediate procurement of tobacco, expansion of exports to international markets, and the exploration of new overseas markets," Kumaraswamy posted on X.

The commerce minister also directed senior officials and key stakeholders from the tobacco purchasing industry to engage on the matter and take necessary steps to provide timely relief to farmers, to address the prevailing crisis, Kumaraswamy added. MP H D Deve Gowda and other leaders were also part of the delegation.

Separately, former Minister Sa Ra Mahesh, who was also in the delegation, told reporters that the commerce minister assured them that letters would be sent to ambassadors of 190 countries, inviting their companies to purchase tobacco directly.

"He also assured that steps will be taken to expand exports to countries where Indian tobacco has not been exported earlier. An appeal will also be made to the state government to provide a support price for tobacco." Mahesh added.

Tobacco procurement has been suspended at several auction platforms in Karnataka after prices dropped sharply from Rs 320 per kg to about Rs 250 per kg in recent days.

Alleging that tobacco purchasing companies had scaled down procurement, triggering the price crash, the farmers had demanded not only a price increase but also that the government invite foreign buyers to the auction platforms to boost competition.

Ballari airport: MBP to soon arrange MLA, MPs meet with CM

Proposes airport viable to Ballari, Vijayanagara, Koppal

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil on Friday told the Legislative Assembly that he would facilitate a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, where MLAs and MPs of Vijayanagara, Ballari and Koppal can discuss the proposed airport for the region.

"I will call all MLAs and MPs from these districts and conduct a meeting with the chief minister. First, we can hand it over to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and get an airport built. There, 50% will benefit us and 50% will help Andhra Pradesh. The other option is to have this airport in common for Ballari, Vijayanagara and Koppal." The meeting is expected to happen before the end of the legislature session (March 27).

Patil was responding to a question by mining baron and Gangavatti MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy about the airport. "Why is it getting delayed? If we hand over this land to the government of India and ask them to build the airport, they are ready to release Rs 750 crore and build the airport," the Gangavathi MLA asked.

In response, the minister explained that careful consideration was required before proceeding, as many local airports had failed within a few years.

"The Udaan Scheme of the central government will be valid for three years. After that, the airport will be closed. Not just in our state, it's the same across the country. We don't know the future of district airports. Thus, I went with the CM and proposed to the aviation minister to extend Udaan to 5 years. After that, there should be a 50:50 Centre-state sharing for the next 5 years. After 10 years, it comes to a position."

Patil told Reddy that they had identified two locations around Ballari as potential destinations for the airport. He felt it was interesting since it would be reachable for Ballari, Vijayanagara and Raichur. "The newly identified site is located about 33 km from Hosapete, 26 km from Hampi, 33 km from Sandur, 75 km from Koppal, 14 km from Kurugodu, 13 km from Toranagallu and 43 km from Siruguppa. However, the suitability of this location for establishing an airport will have to be determined by the Airports Authority of India," Patil explained.

Iran may allow safe passage of fuel to India

Iran, From Page 1

Fathali said India helps Iran and it should also help India, because both nations share common faith and common interests.

"We have tried our best to resolve the problems, and I think you will hear good news in this regard in the near future," the envoy said on the sidelines of an event held on the occasion of the International Al-Quds Day in New Delhi.

Tehran, according to the sources, informally conveyed to New Delhi late on Wednesday that merchant vessels not linked with and not carrying cargo financially beneficial to Israel or the US could be allowed to pass through the strait. What created uncertainty over the movement of oil tankers and other cargo ships was the statement of Mojtaba Khamenei on Thursday that the strategic strait would remain closed. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterpart in Tehran, Abbas Araghchi, had another round of phone call – the fourth since the conflict began – late on Thursday, shortly after the statement of Khamenei.

Unhindered transit of goods

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also spoke to President Masoud Pezeshkian and underlined the need for unhindered transit of goods and energy through the Persian Gulf.

A press release from Iran's ministry of foreign affairs quoted Araghchi as telling Jaishankar that the BRICS should play a constructive role at this juncture in supporting regional and global stability and security. Jaishankar also confirmed in a post on X that he and Araghchi had discussed BRICS-related issues.

Though New Delhi convened a meeting of senior officials from the BRICS member nations on Thursday, the fact that one member, the UAE, came under attack from Iran made it difficult to reach a consensus and develop a common position on the conflict, sources told *DH*.

"We told all sides to adopt the path of diplomacy and dialogue to resolve the conflict as soon as possible," Randhir Jaiswal, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said. "We are also talking to BRICS member states so that a consensus evolves on this issue."

Meanwhile, one of the 28 Indian-flagged vessels stranded in the strait has sailed away safely. The Indian-flagged oil tanker Jag Prakash, carrying petrol from Oman to Africa, had set sail from east of the Strait of Hormuz, Ministry of Shipping Special Secretary Rajesh Kumar Sinha told reporters.

Sinha said a total of 28 Indian-flagged vessels were stuck — 24 on the west of the Strait of Hormuz and four on the east. Jag Prakash was on the east.

"Three vessels remain stuck on the east side with 76 seafarers on board," said Sinha. The 24 Indian-flagged vessels stuck west of the strait have 668 sailors on board.

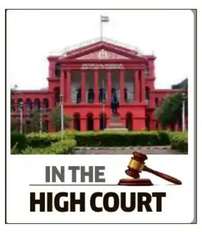
No question of Lokayukta and Upalokayukta judging their own cause: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS

A division bench of the Karnataka High Court has ruled that there is no question of the Lokayukta and the Upalokayukta judging their own cause when the state government entrusts a disciplinary inquiry against a public servant to the Lokayukta institution based on a recommendation by the Lokayukta and Upalokayukta.

The Division Bench comprising Justice D K Singh and Justice S Rachaiah made this observation while reversing a single bench judgement that such enquiry results in "real likelihood of bias" from the perspective of the public servant facing the enquiry. The appeals were filed by the Registrar, Lokayukta challenging the single bench order. In the petitions before the single bench, government servants from escoms challenged the entrusting of disciplinary enquiry dated May 16, 2023, and March 13, 2017 under Regulation 14(A)(1)a(i) of the Karnataka Electricity Board Employees (Classification, Disciplinary Control and Appeal) Regulations, which is similar to Rule 14A of the KCS (CC&A) Rules. The petitioners contended that such inquiry is based on recommendation made by the Lokayukta under Section 12(3) of the Lokayukta Act.

The single bench struck down Regulation 14(A) of the KEB Regulations as unconstitutional and quashed the order entrusting the enquiry to the Lokayukta. The single judge had considered the concept of "inevitable bias" and concluded that Regulation 14(A) of the KEB Regulations results in "real likelihood of bias". The single bench said that if the entrustment is made for holding the disciplinary enquiry by the Lokayukta, there would be inherent bias to uphold the report submitted under section 12(3). Once the Lokayukta forms an opinion recommending disciplinary action, it cannot thereafter function as an impartial authority and this creates a structural defect in holding the enquiry, in violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India, the single bench had said.



After perusing the provisions of the Lokayukta Act, the division bench noted that the Enquiry Officers in the institution of Lokayukta were all Judicial Officers deputed under the Karnataka Lokayukta (Cadre and Recruitment and Conditions of Service of the Officers and Employees) Rules, 1988. The division bench also said that there is no interference of the Lokayukta in the process of enquiry and investigation conducted by the Investigating Officers working in the Police Wing of the Lokayukta.

"The learned Single Judge has held that institutional bias in entrusting the enquiry under Regulation 14(A) of the KEB Regulations to the Lokayukta on the ground of presumption that the institute of Lokayukta would try to uphold the findings recorded in the preliminary enquiry report submitted under Section 12(3) of the Lokayukta Act. Such a finding alleging institutional bias against public servants is unfounded and based on mere apprehension," the bench said.

The division bench further said, "The observation of the learned Single Judge that the Lokayukta and Upalokayukta should not play the dual role of prosecutor as well as enquirer, is also the result of incorrect reading of the provisions of the Lokayukta Act. This conclusion of the learned Single Judge is based on the finding that Lokayukta and Upalokayukta will conduct themselves in a manner prejudicial to the public interest. There is no question of Lokayukta and Upalokayukta judging their own cause as observed by the learned Single Judge. Lokayukta and Upalokayukta are the retired Judges of the High Court."

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77% consumers faced difficulty booking LPG cylinder: Survey

One cylinder costs Rs 2,000 in black market, data shows

A service delivery person carries domestic LPG cylinders in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

A new survey has revealed that 57% of the Indian household consumers surveyed reported experiencing LPG domestic cylinder delivery delays and black marketing in the last week.

A total of 77% residents surveyed in Bengaluru faced difficulty booking or receiving a domestic LPG cylinder.

The survey by Local Circles received over 57,000 responses from household consumers located in 309 districts of India. In this, 7,669 were from Bengaluru.

Of the 77% residents in the city who faced difficulty accessing domestic cylinders, 39% were informed by the dealers that the cylinders were either not available or that delivery would be delayed. A total of 16% shared that they had to wait longer than usual for delivery. About 33% were informed by the dealers about a supply shortage.

About 12% of the surveyed residents shared that they had resorted to buying LPG cylinders from the black market at higher prices. Of which, more than 16% of the consumers paid more than Rs 500 extra per cylinder.

Currently, in Bengaluru, a 16 kg domestic cylinder is being sold on the black market for Rs 1,600 to Rs 3,000.

"I have three senior citizens at home. I only have enough gas to last for two weeks. The Indane dealership has not responded to my calls or texts, and the app, too, is not working. When I went down to the dealership, they said they can't guarantee when the cylinder would be delivered," shared a Malleswaram resident who is contemplating purchasing a cylinder from the black market at the cost of Rs 2,000. Some households with senior citizens are relying on local communities for support.

In Bengaluru, 43% people agreed that either they or someone in their neighbourhood had to buy LPG outside the official system in the past seven days.

Overall, across India, 36% household consumers surveyed who are experiencing LPG black marketing in their area reported that middlemen are charging an extra amount of Rs 100-500 per cylinder.

Run the show with electric stoves for now, Muniyappa tells hoteliers

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minister for Food and Civil Supplies K H Muniyappa on Friday appealed to hoteliers to run the show with electric or induction stoves for the next seven to ten days.

Participating in a discussion on LPG shortage in the Legislative Council, Muniyappa said that there was no question of supplying commercial cylinders to hotels. "Commercial cylinders are being distributed to hospitals and hostels, on priority. We have even asked them to restrict their menus. The oil companies have informed us that their stock is limited," the minister said.

Admitting that two ships loaded with gas had arrived in India, Muniyappa, added that 10-12 more ships were held up at the Strait of Hormuz. "It will be some time before they reach our shores. Till then, we must make do with what we have," he said.

Responding to concerns about Auto LPG, Muniyappa said that oil companies had been asked to ensure uninterrupted supply of the fuel.

EPSI holds workshop on NIRF, NBA accreditation, Data Protection Act

(Left to right) Dr H Chaturvedi, P Palanivel, Dr M R Jayaram, Dr Anil Kumar Nassa, Dr G Viswanathan, Dr Prashant Bhalla and Dr Pradeep Kumar Gupta at the EPSI session.

The Education Promotion Society for India (EPSI), the apex body representing private universities and higher education institutions in India, organised an interactive session on 'Building awareness on NBA accreditation and NIRF ranking: A pathway to institutional excellence towards global standards' along with a session on Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act 2025 yesterday.

The programme brought together academic leaders, policy experts and institutional representatives to deliberate on strengthening quality assurance mechanisms and enhancing the global competitiveness of Indian higher education institutions.

Dr Prashant Bhalla, Senior Vice President, EPSI and President, Manav Rachna Educational Institutions, delivered the welcome address and stressed on the importance of accreditation and ranking frameworks in improving institutional standards and global visibility.

Dr H Chaturvedi, Alternate President, EPSI and Director General, IILM Institute of Higher Education, highlighted the need for greater awareness and preparedness among institutions to align with quality benchmarks and emerging regulatory expectations.

Dr Pradeep Kumar Gupta, Past President, EPSI and Chancellor, Sharda University, underlined the role of accreditation systems in fostering a culture of continuous improvement in higher education.

Chief Patron of EPSI, Dr G Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore, underscored the importance of quality assurance and global standards in shaping the future of Indian universities.

Dr M R Jayaram, President, EPSI and Chancellor, Ramaiah University, Bengaluru, delivered the presidential address and reiterated EPSI's commitment to supporting institutions in strengthening governance, accreditation preparedness and global engagement.

Dr Anil Kumar Nassa, Member Secretary, National Board of Accreditation (NBA), in his keynote address, spoke on accreditation frameworks and strategies for institutions to align with quality parameters. He also led an extensive interactive session on NBA accreditation and the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

Naveen Goel conducted a session on Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, discussing its implications for educational institutions, particularly in relation to data governance, compliance and digital responsibility in academic environments. P Palanivel, Secretary General, EPSI, was also present.

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ANNOUNCEMENT
I, DITTY K S (DITTY KADAMATTU SEBASTIAN) W/o Joseph Wilson V J (Joseph Wilson Varapyakaran Joseph) R/at No.101, Thaliyath Villa, Phase 1, Bluejay Ardley Doddabele, Kengeri, Bengaluru- 560060, In my passport mistakely mentioned my name DITTY JOSEPH WILSON and husband name JOSEPH WILSON VARAPUZHAKARAN JOSEPH. But correct names are DITTY KADAMATTU SEBASTIAN and JOSEPH WILSON VARAPYAKARAN JOSEPH, vide affidavit dated 12-03-2026 before notary Ravi, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MADAVI SURYANARAYANA NARASIMHA SHASTRY, R/at No. 2617, 9th Cross, 14th Main Road, E – Block, Sahakarnagar, Bengaluru- 560092, have changed my name to MADHAVI NARASIMHA SHASTRY, vide affidavit dated 13-03-2026 sworn before Notary L.B. Anasuymma, Bengaluru.

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II PU student found hanging at hostel room in Gurumitkal

GURUMITKAL (YADGIR DISTRICT), DHNS: A II PU girl was found dead, hanging from window grill, at D Devaraj Urs government post-matric hostel for girls in Gurumitkal on Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Swathi Sharanugouda (18), who hailed from Nandepalli village in Gurumitkal taluk. She was studying at a private college in the town.

Police sources said that Swathi did not join for breakfast in the morning and told her hostelmates that she would study for next day's examination. After sometime, Swathi's parents called her classmates and the later knocked on her room door. Since there was no answer, someone broke the glass of the window installed above the door and clicked a photo with the help of a mobile phone. Swathi was found dead, hanging.

Superintendent of Police Pruthvik Shankar said that Swathi called her younger brother on Friday morning asking him to bring calculator. He said that the exact cause for her extreme step would be known only after an investigation.

Law on menstrual leave may affect career chances: SC

Menstrual leave, From Page 1

"The states of Odisha, Karnataka have come up. Kerala gave this relaxation," he said, adding that in 2013, the Kerala government granted menstrual leave for women students in all state-run universities.

The bench said the petitioner does not understand the mindset created in workplaces.

The counsel argued that private companies have voluntarily given leave, considering the problem faced by women.

While commending the private companies that give leave voluntarily, the bench said: "The moment you introduce a law, a compulsory condition, you do not know the amount of damage you are going to do to their career. Nobody will take them."

The court finally disposed of the writ petition seeking paid menstrual leave for women in all establishments.

It was the third petition filed by Tripathi on the same issue.

The first petition was heard by the bench in 2023 and it allowed the petitioner to give a representation before the Union Ministry of Women and Children.

The petitioner approached the court in 2024 again on the ground that the Centre did not respond to his representation. The PIL was disposed of in July 2024 again with the direction to the government to take a decision.

Elephant rescued in Kodagu

SIDDAPURA (KODAGU DISTRICT), DHNS: Forest department personnel captured an elephant at Chenneyyanakote Badaga Banangala on Friday.

A coffee grower identified as Chowrira Ganapathi was killed in a wild elephant attack at Guhya on Thursday. Following the incident, the forest staff kept the elephant under surveillance and captured it at Hundi, about 14 km away, using five trained elephants and by administering a tranquilizer dart.

DCF Jagannath said that more than 110 personnel participated in the operation to capture the lone male elephant, which is estimated to be around 32–34 years old.

Rs 1L-cr economic stabilisation fund to tackle global headwinds

Nirmala, From Page 1

The remaining amount will be met through savings from other ministries and departments.

The external headwinds have a significant impact on the Indian economy. The ongoing US-Israel-Iran war has pushed oil prices higher, which is likely to widen India's import bill and result in higher inflation and low economic growth.

The finance minister said the fund would help India effectively manage external shocks.

Responding to discussion on the second batch of supplementary demands for grants in the Lower House, Sitharaman said the government is hopeful of meeting the 4.4% fiscal deficit target in the current financial year, as proposed in the budget.

This is despite Rs 2.01 lakh crore of additional spending sought under the second supplementary demands for grants. "There is no increase in expenditure beyond the BE of 2025-26 due to the second supplementary," she said.

Rejecting the Opposition charge that bringing supplementary demands for grants shows "poor budgeting" by the government, Sitharaman termed it "flawed logic" and asked whether the government should not have brought the Fund in times of unforeseen challenges.

She said that when the world is facing a crisis, it is necessary for all political parties to rise above party lines and support the government.

The proposal was passed in the Lok Sabha through a voice vote amid frequent disruptions and sloganeering by Opposition members over LPG price hike and shortage. (*With PTI inputs*)

KSCA holds mock drill to get IPL-ready, awaits govt response

KSCA, from Page 1

To ensure immediate response to any problems, KSCA is also said to be closely working with two well-known private hospitals in the city to provide immediate emergency care.

With such developments, sources said that the expert committee was convinced about the implementation of the recommendation suggested in phase 1.

"However, a majority of the physical works are proposed only in phase 2 and phase 3. These are crucial and are expected to be taken up after this IPL season," sources said.

Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru will host Sunrisers Hyderabad here in their campaign opener on March 28 and will then take on arch-rivals Chennai Super Kings on April 5.

RCB will play five home games at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, with two other home games to be played at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Stadium in Raipur.

Oppn MPs submit notice to remove CEC

CEC, from Page 1

The Trinamool was keen on moving against Kumar during the first phase of the Budget Session itself, with Mamata making it clear that she would support such an initiative but Congress and other parties went ahead filing a notice seeking Birla's removal.

The party did not sign the notice, as it felt that Congress was pushing its agenda. It provided qualified support for moving against Birla, insisting that they should have first approached him for the withdrawal of the suspension of MPs.

The submission of the notice is the culmination of plans that started in August last year, as the Opposition's confrontation with the CEC had escalated with the announcement of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Since 1991, there have been attempts to impeach six Supreme Court and High Court judges. The Opposition had in 2020 moved a notice for the removal of Harivansh as Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman and Jagdeep Dhankhar as Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman last year, which were rejected at the admission stage.

The Lok Sabha is presently dealing with an impeachment notice against Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court. A three-member high-level committee is probing allegations against him regarding the discovery of huge amounts of cash during a fire at his official residence.

Sources said the panel is expected to submit its report before the Monsoon Session, following which it will be taken up for consideration in the Lok Sabha.

Bidar vet varsity land transfer: HC notice to state, KVAFSU

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court on Friday ordered notice to the state government, Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Science University (KVAFSU), Veterinary College and others in a public interest litigation.

The petitioners challenged the January 8, 2026, government order directing transfer of four acres of KVAFSU situated at the Veterinary College campus, Hebbal, for construction of residential quarters of judges of Karnataka high court and to transfer another three acres for construction of super-specialty hospital.

The Karnataka Veterinary Association, Bengaluru Veterinary College Alumni and two other organisations have filed the petition. A division bench comprising Justices D K Singh and T M Nadaf directed the authorities to file their response within 10 days. The matter was adjourned to March 25.

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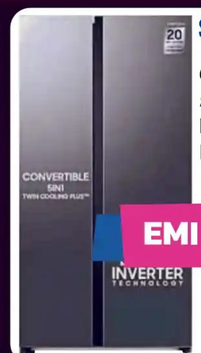

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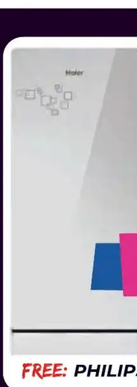

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1. **A tanker supplies auto LPG at a fuel station in Davangere on Friday.** DH PHOTO/SATISH BADIGER
2. **Empty cylinders stocked at a gas agency godown in Kalaburagi.** DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD
3. **Hotel Janatha, a popular eatery, is shutdown due to non-availability of LPG cylinder in VV Puram of Bengaluru on Friday.** DH PHOTO
4. **A cook prepares food on a wood stove at a small eatery amid gas supply crisis on MG Road in Bengaluru on Friday.** DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

STORM IN THE KITCHEN: Restaurants staring at shutdown due to LPG scarcity

It's back to basics: Some hotels switch to firewood

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

As the LPG shortage continues in Bengaluru, restaurants are rapidly switching to firewood to keep their hearth burning.

The crisis has affected hotels from bigger brands to smaller eateries. The eateries which do not have enough resources to cook with firewood in their kitchens have shut down. More restaurants are staring at a shut down.

A few of the restaurants have resorted to only serving coffee, tea, idli and rice items. The dosa tawas have completely been switched off.

Pointing out to the newly set up firewood stoves, Bharath Kumar of a hotel in Basavanagudi, told *DH*, "Firewood is our new addition. The demand is going up for that as well in the market. Everyday we need at least five cylinders but now we are getting only two and for that we are paying Rs 3,000."

Chain of restaurants such as the Idli Dose Coffee- IDC have also shut a few outlets and have reduced their menu in most outlets.

The small samosa and jalebi centres are also buying expensive cylinders to just keep the business going.

During *DH*'s visit to multiple establishments, it was also found that a few eateries were using domestic cylinders as it is easier to procure.

The kitchen of a restaurant is modified for cooking using firewood in Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, on Friday.
DH PHOTO/AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR

> Scientifically, burning diesel (for cooking food) is wrong. The diesel produces fumes, which have harmful chemicals like benzene or more powerful chemicals which will settle on the food items. Consuming such chemicals even in smaller quantities is bad.
>
> **Dr GM PRASAD**
> Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine

WAR SHOCKS

The sweet shops that have in-house production are also facing trouble. They are also finding it hard to switch to other alternatives. "We need time to set up the biofuel, so it is not a timely alternative. We are not sure of using wood because many of our new chefs are not aware of using it," said one of the sweet stall owners in Basavanagudi.

Diesel stoves

Some of the fritter centers using LPG are planning to revert to kerosene stoves they were using previously. They plan to use diesel instead of kerosene.

One of the owners, Shivakumar R, said, "We cannot close the business as our lives are dependent on this. So, we will bring in kerosene stoves but instead of kerosene we will use diesel to run those stoves." However, doctors noted that diesel is not a safe alternative for LPG.

"Scientifically, it is wrong. The diesel produces fumes, which have harmful chemicals like benzene or more powerful chemicals which will settle on the food items. Consuming such chemicals even in smaller quantities is bad," said Dr GM Prasad, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY

Briquettes and bio gas fuel these mega kitchens which serve lakhs daily

Taking a leaf out of Adamya Chetana's book

BENGALURU, DHNS

Even as the city is grappling with a shortage of LPG cylinders, Adamya Chetana, a NGO has been cooking close to 1.6 lakh meals every day using briquettes, bio energy and bio mass. Adamya Chetana supplies close to 1.6 lakh midday meals to children across the state.

The NGO has proved that alternate means of cooking can work on scale and there is a need for the city to look at such alternatives.

"Close to 90% of the food in our kitchen is steam cooked using briquettes. This way, we have been able to use environmentally friendly materials to cook," said Tejaswini Ananth Kumar, social worker and co-founder of Adamya Chetana.

While it might be difficult for households to adapt to such methods for cooking, the hotels, restaurants and many other caterers in the city who cook on a large-scale can slowly transition to it, she said.

A file photo of a biogas plant. PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION

The Adamya Chetana, back in 2008, tried various alternatives to LPG and with trial and error means, in 2009, the kitchens turned completely fossil fuel-free.

"Apart from briquettes, we also use bio energy and power generated from food waste. We have worked out a combination of alternate sources of energy that works for our kitchen set up. Everyone should try what could work for them and have some alternative," Tejaswini added.

However, such alternate cooking methods require some investment and training to those involved in cooking. With advanced technology, good quality briquettes are now easily available and establishments should put to use such techniques, she added.

Similar initiatives have been taken up across the state. Akshaya Patra Foundation's kitchen at Rayapur near Hubballi prepares food for over 1.20 lakh students daily under the mid-day meal scheme using briquettes made of agricultural waste.

"Around 10 tonnes of rice and 32,000 litres of sambar are prepared every day. Biogas produced using vegetable waste is used for minor works like garnishing (oggarane). We use approximately 300 kg of briquettes daily. They are sourced from Challakere in Chitradurga district and are cheaper than LPG. The system of using energy-efficient briquettes for boilers started since the inception of the kitchen in 2004-05," said Akshaya Patra senior manager (operations) Kiran Ambekar.

Siddharoodamutt in Hubballi, a major spiritual centre in the region, serves food to around 8,000 devotees on weekdays, 15,000 people on Sundays and Mondays, and around 25,000 people on Amavasye. The mutt's kitchen uses firewood to prepare 'prasada' (three times a day) using steam-boiler system.

Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru, which prepares food for around 10,000 students and 5,000 devotees daily, is also not dependent on LPG. Firewood and arecanut husk are used in the steam boiler system to prepare food.

Over the last few days, owing to a shortage in LPG cylinders due to the conflict in West Asia, many hotels in the city have shifted to using firewood for cooking.

Eateries hit by LPG shortage; some down shutters

BELAGAVI/DAVANGERE/ HUBBALLI/ KALABURAGI/ MANGALURU/MYSURU, DHNS: The disruption in the supply of commercial LPG cylinders to eateries affected the food industry across Karnataka on Friday too, forcing several hotels and small establishments to shut down operations.

Hotel association members estimate that nearly 10% to 30% of the total hotels in tier-II cities might have shut their business.

Hoteliers from multiple cities said the supply of commercial LPG cylinders was halted on Friday, compelling them to look for alternative fuel sources.

Shankar Patil of Saptagiri Orange Hotel in Kalaburagi said they were exploring alternatives such as firewood and induction cookers. "However, we do not have enough skilled workers who can cook using firewood," he said.

Small-scale and roadside tea vendors were among the worst hit, with many forced to close their stalls due to the non-availability of cylinders.

"We cannot afford to pay Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 per cylinder. The price has almost doubled at private vendors and gas agencies have run out of stock," said Satish, who runs a canteen in Vidyanagar, Hubballi.

Hotel owners are caught in a catch-22 situation regarding their staff, they can neither fire them nor retain them paying wages. Narasimha Mendan, president of the Kalaburagi Hotel, Bakery, and Lodging Owners' Association said that owners must pay wages to the workers despite shutting down their businesses instead of asking them to quit. "Owners will have to face workers' problems once they start their businesses," he said.

Hotels that managed to switch to alternative fuels have increased the prices of the limited food items they are serving by 10% to 20%.

In Davangere, officials seized domestic LPG cylinders used illegally for commercial cooking and warned hotel owners against the practice.

LPG crisis pushes temples in state back to traditional cooking for prasada

MANGALURU/MYSURU, DHNS

Amid West Asia conflict and LPG supply disruptions, many temples in the state are switching to firewood to prepare prasada while a few temples have stopped serving prasada.

In Dakshina Kannada, a land of temples, many temples, including Kadri Manjunath temple in Mangaluru, have switched to firewood to prepare prasada following acute shortage of cooking gas.

Kadri Manjunatha Temple Executive Officer Pushpalatha said, "We usually require about four LPG cylinders daily to prepare prasada. Until now there was no shortage of cooking gas. The temple also has facilities to cook using firewood. Therefore, we have decided to cook with firewood until the crisis eases."

Around 1,000 to 1,200 devotees visit the temple for prasada every day. "On Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and full-moon days, the number of devotees rises to between 2,000 and 3,000," she added.

The situation is no different at the Kateel Durga Parameshwari Temple, which did not receive any LPG cylinder supply on Thursday.

The temple has a separate kitchen with firewood stoves, but we do not have sufficient stock of firewood. Hence, we have initiated steps to procure firewood," said Sriharinarayanadas Asranna, the hereditary priest of the temple.

The Dasoha Bhavan of Chamundeshwari Temple in Mysuru will start using firewood stoves to prepare prasada from Saturday.

Sri Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority, Secretary M J Roopa said, "We will be using both gas and firewood stoves alternatively. We are trying to save as many cylinders as we can."

Due to non-availability of commercial LPG cylinders, the Channakeshava temple in Belur, Hassan, has stopped serving prasada to devotees from Friday until further notice.

A view of the Dasoha Bhavan of Channekeshava Temple at Belur in Hassan district on Friday.

SHIP FROM CONFLICT ZONE

A Barbados-flagged ship, Cheng X, loaded with bitumen from the United Arab Emirates arrives at the commercial port of Karwar via the conflict zone Strait of Hormuz, on Thursday night. The ship carrying 3,100 tonnes of bitumen had left the UAE on March 3, before the war intensified. The bitumen supply from the Middle East was stalled for days following the conflict between Israel-the US and Iran.

Apartments' federation asks members to use LPG judiciously

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) has issued an advisory to apartment communities, advising them to adopt responsible LPG consumption practices and prepare temporary alternatives wherever possible.

Considering the shortage of LPG cylinders, the BAF has asked apartment dwellers to avoid panic booking or stockpiling cylinders.

The advisory also encourages use of electricity as a supplementary cooking option.

"Most apartment communities have stable electricity supply. Residents are encouraged to temporarily shift part of their cooking to electric appliances where feasible," the advisor said.

Using electricity for even 30-40% of cooking activities can significantly reduce LPG consumption across the community, the federation noted.

The residents can also use efficient LPG usage practices that can extend cylinder life by adopting simple cooking habits like use pressure cookers wherever possible, covering vessels while cooking, and using the correct burner size for utensils. Such small steps can reduce LPG consumption by 15-20% in many households, the advisory noted.

CASCADING EFFECT

Hotels trim menu, vegetable sales down by 40%

NRUPATHUNGA S K
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

The disruption in supply of commercial cylinders to hotels has not only affected hoteliers but also wholesale vegetable market in the state.

Vegetable merchants in Kalaburagi, Dharwad, Davangere and Chitradurga stated that there has been 30% to 40% decline in sale of vegetables as hoteliers shortened their menu and working hours also. Hotels are major consumers of vegetables and if they shut down due to LPG scarcity, traders will have to sell vegetables at throwaway prices, given their short shelf life. Shivamogga Wholesale Vegetable Vendors Association president N Ramesh told *DH* that the business is hit badly. The price of tomatoes per 25 kg has come down from Rs 400 to Rs 200 depending on quality and size. It is also being sold at Rs 150 as they perish within a day or two. Hotels have halved the items on their menu, in turn bringing down vegetable requirement.

Davangere Wholesale Vegetable Merchants Association president M N Thippeswamy said that the business has come down by 20% to 30%

Kodandarama, a wholesale vegetable merchant from Challakere in Chitradurga district told that the sale of vegetables has come down over the last three days.

The vegetable prices in Kalaburagi market have slightly reduced due to a fall in demand. The vegetable vendors claimed that their regular customers especially hoteliers, have stopped purchases over the last 4-5 days.

Gulam Gilani, a wholesale vegetable merchant at Kalaburagi Super Market, said that chat outlets used to buy around 10-15 quintals of onion and potatoes. Now, they have stopped purchasing. The price of onions has come down, he added.

Dharwad vegetable market has witnessed drop in sales over the last four days. Wholesale trader Mohammad Asif said that on a normal day he sells more than 400 kg of vegetables, mainly to hoteliers and PG operators. Although vegetable supplies remain steady, sales have dropped by nearly 25% over the past few days, he added.

The markets in Mysuru and Belagavi region have started witnessing fall and the situation may become worse if hotels are closed down as they buy vegetables on a large scale on daily basis.

Hotels are major consumers of vegetables and if they shut down due to LPG scarcity, traders will have to sell vegetables at throwaway prices, given their short shelf life. DH PHOTO

MLC demands probe into begging mafia in Bengaluru

BENGALURU DHNS: Allegations about a begging mafia operating in Bengaluru were made in the Legislative Council on Friday.

Congress MLC K Govindaraj said the begging continues in several parts of the state, particularly in busy areas of Bengaluru such as MG Road and Brigade Road, despite the anti-begging law being in place for nearly five decades.

The Congress leader told the House that a well-organised network is allegedly behind the activity, with agents bringing people to the city and deploying them at different locations.

Govindaraj urged the state government to crack down on such organised networks.

Responding to the issue, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa said the government would act immediately if credible evidence is provided.

He also assured the House that he would instruct the Bengaluru city police commissioner to look into the complaints.

Internal quota: CM succumbing to pressure, says Bommai

Basavaraj Bommai

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday warned of a statewide agitation if the Congress government fails to implement internal reservation for Scheduled Castes based on the report of the Justice H N Nagamohan Das Commission.

Addressing a press conference, Bommai said there was no need for a special Cabinet meeting to implement the measure and urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to act immediately.

"The CM has succumbed to pressure from those opposing internal reservation," Bommai said. He said the government's plan to fill 56,000 posts lacked clarity because of the imbroglio over internal reservation.

Asked about bringing the 56% reservation under Schedule 9 of the Constitution, Bommai said: "The Schedule 9 no longer provides the same level of protection (from judicial scrutiny) since such provisions can now be challenged in courts. The reservation system in Tamil Nadu, which is under Schedule 9, has been legally challenged."

Private member's bill to protect gold loan borrowers'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior Congress MLC Ramesh Babu presented a private member bill, 'The Karnataka Protection of Pledged Gold Borrowers Bill, 2025', in the Legislative Council to protect the interests of the public who pledge gold with private financial institutions and non-banking companies for an emergency loan.

"This is a bill to provide protection for borrowers who have pledged gold ornaments, and to regulate the process of auction of pledged gold by non-banking financial companies and private finance institutions in the state of Karnataka," Ramesh Babu explained while presenting the bill.

He said that the bill restricts any company, firm, bank or financial institution from initiating auction proceedings of pledged gold unless a minimum notice period of 180 days is given to the borrower from the date of default. "Auction of pledged gold shall be conducted only through a licensed auctioneer approved by the government, and the auction shall be conducted in the presence of a representative of the local tahsildar or such authorised officer," Ramesh Babu said.

Govt red-faced as Cong MLA says he's unhappy with Budget

Party leaders not amused, call for expulsion of Iqbal Hussain

BENGALURU, DHNS

Ramanagara Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain joined the Opposition BJP in criticizing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 2026-27 Budget, leaving the government embarrassed and leading to calls for his expulsion from the party.

"I'm not happy with the Budget," Hussain said. "I had sought many things for my constituency. I sought a special package. I'd met the CM personally. But my requests weren't heard."

Hussain is a supporter of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's chief ministerial ambition. During the ongoing Budget session, the Opposition BJP pointed out that that Shivakumar himself had not publicly endorsed Siddaramaiah's budget.

Hussain is particularly upset that the Budget had nothing on the Bakshikere lake. "When the lake breached because of an unscientific highway, many people were affected. Cattle died, children's books, jewelry and documents got washed away. The entire Ramanagara drowned. I raised this 10 times. If I wasn't heard, should I call myself an MLA for all the votes people gave me?" he said.

The MLA said he had sought grants for drain development and a silk reelers park. "My constituency didn't get anything. That's why I'm unhappy," he said. Asked to react, Shivakumar pointed out that the Budget has announced a new Bengaluru South district court complex at Ramanagara. "Many other works have been provided, which will be announced," he said.

To this, Hussain said that the court has been there a hundred years. "It's not new," he said.

Asked if Ramanagara was overlooked because of his support for Shivakumar, Hussain said: "That's a different issue. I'm only speaking about my constituents, my people."

IQBAL HUSSAIN
Ramanagara MLA

"My constituency didn't get anything. That's why I'm unhappy.

G PARAMESHWARA
Home Minister

"Our expressions must have limitations laid out by the party. Exceeding the limits will get noted. Perhaps, for the next election, the party will look at such statements while deciding on whether or not he should get the ticket.

Meanwhile, Hussain's stance was panned by his Congress colleagues. Home Minister G Parameshwara hinted that Hussain's statements may lead to the party denying him the ticket during the next election. "Our expressions must have limitations laid out by the party. Exceeding the limits will get noted. Perhaps, for the next election, the party will look at such statements while deciding on whether or not he should get the ticket," he said.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said speaking out publicly would damage the party. "Whatever it is, whoever it is, things must be spoken inside four walls," he said.

Sagar Congress MLA Belur Gopalakrishna said 99% of MLAs were alright with the Budget. "Such MLAs (Hussain) should be expelled," he said.

Khader fumes over govt's failure to answer members' questions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Speaker of the Assembly U T Khader on Friday admonished the Congress government for giving only 50-odd answers to nearly 130 unstarred questions.

"All members want their questions to be starred. Written answers must be submitted for unstarred questions. You should at least provide a timeframe as to when the answer will be provided," said Khader.

Khader said that a committee under Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani had been constituted to examine the issue. "Our silence should not be perceived as our weakness," said Khader.

Endorsing Khader's observations, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka said, "You (Khader) have said it thrice. Let it not be said a fourth time. We need to know who the black sheep is. Which official is lazy; who is playing golf for four hours? By the end of the session, you should tell us how many questions remain."

Home Minister G Parameshwara admitted that members of the ruling party and the opposition were bound to feel bad if their questions went unanswered. "You (Speaker) have also spoken strongly on this issue, which is quite rare. I will bring this to the Chief Minister's attention, and try to ensure that suitable directions are issued to all ministers," he said.

Act against officials who fail to answer questions: Horatti

BENGALURU, DHNS

More than 80 questions, asked by the members of the Legislative Council, were not answered in the last session of the legislature.

In the ongoing session, out of 740 questions asked by members, 182 questions have not yet been answered.

JD(S) member Bhoje Gowda raised this issue in the Council and expressed displeasure with the officers' irresponsibility in providing the answers.

Agreeing with Bhoje Gowda, Chairman of the House Basavaraj Horatti sharply criticised the government.

"This keeps repeating. If officials fail to provide answers, why is there no action against them? At least inform me that you will not answer, then I will stop asking questions," he said.

Floor Leader N S Boseraju tried to convince the chairman and members by saying that instructions have already been given to officials to provide answers regularly.

"We will ensure answers are given within the week," he said.

Horatti sternly said, "Every time you say the same thing. Why is there no action against officials who fail to answer? First, take action against a few officials who are deliberately delaying." At this point, Law Minister H K Patil intervened, saying that on March 20, a meeting will be held with the secretaries of departments regarding pending questions.

"Technically, valid questions will be answered immediately. If officials fail to respond appropriately, strict action will be taken against them," Patil assured the House.

RDPR dept expands partnership with British Council

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department said it has expanded its partnership with the British Council on English language learning, library services and knowledge through Gram Panchayat Arivu Kendras (Knowledge Centres). Now, the number of British Council Library Corners in Arivu Kendras will increase from 10 to 70, with 60 additional centres.

ALL SMILES

Ministers Priyank Kharge, Shivaraj Tangadagi and Krishna Byre Gowda share a light moment in the Legislative Council on Friday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

Municipalities amendment Bill tabled to boost ad revenue

Proposed Bill intends to make provisions of ads on a par with GBA Act

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to enhance the levy and collection of fees on advertisements, the Karnataka government has introduced the Karnataka Municipalities and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Bill along the lines of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act.

The Bill, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, seeks to amend the Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964, and the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976.

The statement of reasons of the Bill notes that the proposed law intends to make provisions for advertisements on a par with the provisions of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024 (Karnataka Act 36 of 2025) for levying and collection of fee on advertisements, regulation of unauthorised advertisements and validation of such fee and penalty, so collected.

As per section 132A, which has been added anew to the Municipalities Act, anyone who erects, exhibits, fixes or retains on any land, building, wall or structure will have to pay an advertisement fee calculated by the municipal council.

The Bill also notes that no fee shall be levied on a public meeting of municipalities, an election to any legislative body and a candidature in respect of such an election.

Section 133 of the Act also makes it mandatory for advertisements to seek the written permission of the municipal council. If the advertisement contravenes any bye-law of the council, and if any advertisement fee has not been paid, the council need not grant permission. Section 136 notes that if any advertisement that has been erected, exhibited, etc., contrary to the provisions of section 133, the municipal commissioner or chief officer can require the owner of the occupied land to take down or remove such advertisements, or even enter any building, land or property and have the advertisement removed or demolished.

In case an advertisement fee and/or penalty is delayed, an interest at the rate of 18% per annum should be paid.

Similar amendments related to advertisements, removal and demolition of unauthorised advertisements and so on have also been made to the Municipal Corporations Act.

Cong MLAs to renew pressure for Cabinet rejig

Pattan seeks cabinet berths for at least 22 of 34 three-time MLAs

BENGALURU, DHNS

Over two dozen Congress lawmakers held a late night meeting on Thursday where they decided to mount pressure on the party's high command to reshuffle Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Cabinet.

"The high command had made it clear to all of us that a Cabinet reshuffle would happen after two-and-a-half years of the government. It's not almost three years now," Government Chief Whip Ashok Pattan said.

Pattan said there is disgruntlement among lawmakers towards some ministers. "Half of all minsiters are doing good work. But some of them are inaccessible to MLAs," he said.

There are 34 MLAs who have been elected three times or more, Pattan said. "Our one-point programme is that at least 22 of these 34 senior MLAs must be made ministers," he said. "About 25-30 of us want to go to Delhi to meet the high command. We'll go after the Budget session of the legislature ends on March 26," he said.

Arsikere MLA K M Shiva-linge Gowda, who attended the late-night meeting, said he was promised a seat in the Cabinet when he quit JD(S) to join Congress. "We want the Cabinet reshuffle to happen soon," he said. "I'm hopeful that I'll become a minister when the reshuffle happens."

CM's dinner

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is hosting 16 of his Cabinet colleagues over dinner on Monday evening. Confirming this, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said: "Yes, I've been invited,too. The CM keeps meeting ministers like this to discuss matters pertaining to the government and the party."

SC (Right) leaders to meet CM?

Ministers and lawmakers belonging to the SC (Right) are planning to meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday to discuss the contentious issue of sub-classification or internal reservation. Sources said that they will press the CM to not implement internal reservation for the 15% SC quota.

"If it must be done, then the government should ensure that the share of the Right, Bhovis and Lambanis isn't reduced," a source said.

A special meeting of the Cabinet on March 27 is expected to take a final decision on internal reservation.

BJP core committee meeting discusses bypolls

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP state core committee on Friday deliberated on the upcoming by-elections for Bagalkot and Davangere South Legislative Assembly constituencies.

The by-elections are being held due to the death of sitting MLAs H Y Meti (Bagalkot) and Shamanur Shankarappa (Davangere South).

State BJP president B Y Vijayendra, Karnataka State In-charge Radha Mohan Agrawal, former CM D V Sadananda Gowda, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka, his Council counterpart Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, former deputy chief minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan and others participated in the meeting.

"In today's core-committee meeting, we discussed the upcoming by-elections for the Bagalkot and Davangere South constituencies. The names of the candidates discussed in the meeting will be sent to the party leadership," Vijayendra told reporters after the meeting.

A leader who was a part of the meeting told *DH* that the choice in Bagalkot was between Veeranna Charanthimath and Pralhad Pujari — both are former MLAs from the constituency. There are higher chances that Charanthimath might get the ticket, the source added. However, there are several aspirants in Davangere South. The leader explained that all contenders will be taken along, and that a consensus was likely to be reached in the next 3-4 days.

From the Congress, one of Meti's children is likely to get the ticket in Bagalkot. In Davangere South, Abdul Jabbar, one of Shamanur Shivashankarappa's family members (son Ganesh or grandson Samarth) and MT Subhashchandra are said to be the contenders.

Untreated water to CB Pur: BJP threatens padayatra

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Chikkaballapur BJP Lok Sabha member K Sudhakar on Friday said that the BJP would take out a padayatra in Chikkaballapur, if the state government fails to introduce tertiary treatment of water under the HN Valley and KC Valley projects - supplying water Chikkaballapur and Kolar.

Under the above projects, water currently reaches the region after two levels of treatment. However, there have been increasing complaints of lack of treatment of water and increased pollutants in it, he told reporters here. He urged that state government must issue strict directions to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board to ensure proper treatment standards.

RS polls: 8 Odisha Cong MLAs camp at Bidadi resort

BENGALURU, DHNS: Eight first-time Congress lawmakers from Odisha, said to be fearful of being poached ahead of the March 16 Rajya Sabha election, are camping at a resort in Bidadi under the supervision of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

"These MLAs are being made big offers to defect," Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress president, told reporters after meeting the Odisha MLAs. Shivakumar has earlier safeguarded Congress lawmakers from Maharashtra (2002) to help then chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, and from Gujarat (2017) to ensure Ahmed Patel's election to the Rajya Sabha.

"I was informed by my Odisha counterpart that MLAs are coming. I said they can come. We have made arrangements for their stay," Shivakumar said. "I must do what the party says." Congress and the BJD have jointly fielded urologist Dr Datteswar Hota for the Rajya Sabha election. He needs 30 votes to win. Congress (14), BJD (18) and CPIM (1) have 32 votes.

"This is a common issue in politics. It's our duty to help them (MLAs). There are fears of horse-trading. BJP is known for horse-trading. We don't want that to happen," Shivakumar said.

Love failure, online betting driving students to end lives, Minister Mahadevappa tells Council

BENGALURU, DHNS

Disappointment in love, online betting and gaming addiction, and personal problems were impelling students at hostels administered by the Social Welfare Department to end their life, said Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa on the floor of the Legislative Council on Friday.

Replying to a query on the subject from Congress MLC Thippanna Kamakanur, Mahadevappa said, "In the past three years, 12 students have committed suicide at Social Welfare Department Hostels. But none of them took the extreme step because of ragging, lack of facilities or stress."

Mahadevappa

Five of the 12 students who ended their life had faced disappointment in love, while personal problems prompted four to take the extreme step, depression impelled two of them, while one student was dealing with online gaming addiction, said Mahadevappa.

Raichur, Belagavi and Haveri districts accounted for two cases each, while Chitradurga, Davanagere, Tumakuru, Shivamogga and Dharwad each reported a single case.

The state government has constituted a committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary of the Social Welfare Department to frame the Karnataka State Suicide Prevention Policy, said the minister.

"In fact, the draft of the policy is ready. One of the recommendations of the committee entails mandating appointment of counsellors at institutions boasting more than 100 students," Mahadevappa said.

Besides the incidents reported at residential schools and hostels, students have ended their life by suicide at institutions under the purview of the Department of School Education and Literacy and those under the umbrella of Karnataka Residential Education Institutions Society.

27 suicides in three years

- **10 at government schools** under the Department of School Education
- **12 at hostels** administered by Social Welfare Department
- **5 at Karnataka** Residential Education Institutions Society schools

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast March 14: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	35.8	17.2	00
Bidar	36.8	17.6	00
Vijayapura	34	16.5	00
Dharwad	36.5	17.4	00
Haveri	35.4	17.5	00
Kalaburagi	39.8	22.8	00
Raichur	37	21	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34	22.5	00
Karwar	36	23.4	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34.9	25.6	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	36.5	NA	00
Bengaluru	33.1	20.2	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	34.8	19.4	00
Davangere	35.5	16	00
Hassan	34.1	14	00
Mysuru	33.2	17.6	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	33.6	15.4	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	35.8	20.4	00
Kolkata	32.1	24.8	00
Mumbai	33.1	22.8	00
Chennai	34.6	24.3	00
Pune	38.1	17.7	00
Hyderabad	37.2	21	00
Th'puram	34.6	24.8	00

WEST ASIA CRISIS: Govt asks public to avoid panic booking; assures stable supply, insists there is no shortage

Centre urges restraint amid LPG rush

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Panic-stricken people queued up at distributors to obtain LPG cylinders in several parts of the country on Friday amid reports of hoarding and the closure of some eateries, even as the central government insisted there was no shortage of LPG.

The government appealed to the public not to engage in panic booking of cylinders or crowd distributor offices, assuring that uninterrupted LPG supply to households had been ensured.

It also advised households located near existing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) infrastructure to consider switching to piped cooking gas, which provides a continuous supply and reduces dependence on cylinder bookings and delivery cycles.

"There is no need for panic booking, and there has been no dry-out at any LPG dealer," Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, told the media.

She acknowledged that panic booking was taking place, noting that LPG bookings had surged to 75.7 lakh compared to an average of 55.7 lakh in the pre-crisis period.

"Domestic production of LPG has already increased by 30% since March 5. Natural gas supplies have been prioritised for the household and transport sectors, thereby maintaining supplies to essential services. LPG dealerships are well-stocked," she said.

Refineries are operating at full capacity, none of the over one lakh petrol pumps in the country has faced a dry-out, she added.

She acknowledged that LPG remains a matter of concern, as a major portion of consumption relies on supplies through the Strait of Hormuz.

HORMUZ TENSIONS

- Panic buying reported across several states
- Households near PNG networks advised to switch to piped gas
- Queues, protests and road blockades in Bihar and Odisha
- Restaurants, hostels and traders hit; 40% of Kerala restaurants on verge of closure
- Shortages reported in Kota's coaching hub

She said that LPG supplies to commercial establishments had been stopped temporarily, but stocks would now be placed at the disposal of state governments, which would decide priorities for their distribution."We are not able to service all commercial users for the time being.

WAR SHOCKS

Long queues were witnessed outside distribution centres across Bihar and in some places in Odisha, despite administrations claiming there was no shortage of domestic gas cylinders.

Protests and road blockades occurred in several parts of Odisha, with consumers complaining about delays in receiving cylinder refills.

In Delhi, the gas crunch has sent small-scale traders into financial distress, while in Madhya Pradesh, the hotel association advised eateries to switch from gas-cooked rotis to traditional wood-fired tandoors.

The Kerala Hotel and Restaurant Association (KHRA) reported that around 40% of restaurants in the state were on the verge of closing down.

In Rajasthan's Kota, a shortage of cylinders caused panic in the coaching hub.

Consumers gather to avail LPG cylinders in Mumbai on Friday. PTI

LPG Status: Supply and Demand

- Number of retail outlets: **1,01,469**
- LPG distributorship: **25,605**
- **50 lakh** LPG cylinders distributed daily
- Total LPG consumers: **33.37 cr**
- PMUY connections: **10.56 cr**
- Government says **no dryout** reported from any distributor

Panic bookings

- Average refills per day from April to Feb 2025-26: **55.7 lakh**

Spike in Bookings

- March 10, 2026: **69 lakh**
- March 12, 2026: **75.7 lakh**

Source: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Oman drone strike kills 2 more Indians

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The number of Indian citizens killed in the latest round of conflicts in West Asia has risen to five, with two more lives lost in a drone strike in Oman, targeted by Iran in response to attacks by Israel and the United States since February 28.

Earlier, three Indians — all mariners — were killed in attacks on merchant vessels passing through the Persian Gulf. Nearly 1.5 lakh Indians have returned from West Asia.

The drone strikes at Sohar in Oman not only killed two workers from India but also injured 10 others, Aseem Mahajan, Additional Secretary (Gulf) at the Ministry of External Affairs, told journalists on Friday.

The slain Indians were among the expatriate workers at Al Awhi Industrial Zone at Sohar in Oman.

"Of the 11 injured, 10 are Indians. Out of them, five have been discharged and five others are receiving treatment in local hospitals," said Mahajan, adding, "None of them is reported to have serious injuries. Our mission is in close touch with the company and local authorities and is rendering all assistance."

FIRST ON LAND

- Deaths at Sohar are the first on land; victims were expatriates at Al Awhi Industrial Zone
- Three Indian mariners earlier killed in attacks
- Nearly 1.5 lakh Indians have returned from West Asia since conflict began
- 2,900 Indians flown back from Qatar; 1,000 from Bahrain

The deaths of two Indians at Sohar in Oman were the first on land.

A US-owned crude oil tanker, Safesea Vishnu, which was sailing under the Marshall Islands flag, came under attack in the Persian Gulf off Basra in Iraq late on Wednesday, resulting in the death of one of the 16 Indian mariners on the ship. The remaining 15 Indian crew members have since been evacuated to a hotel in Basra. .

The Embassy of India in Baghdad is in contact with authorities in Iraq, and has extended all possible assistance to the rescued Indians, the Ministry of External Affairs stated in New Delhi.

Two Indian mariners had been killed in attacks on two other merchant vessels—Skylight and MKD Vyom—in the Gulf of Oman earlier this month.

Over 9.5 million Indians live and work in West Asia, mostly in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Nearly 1.5 lakh Indian nationals returned from the region since the conflict started, said Mahajan.

Around 2,900 Indians returned from Qatar in Qatar Airways flights over the past few days, and 1,000 Indians returned from Bahrain. A total of 117 Indians have crossed over to Armenia from Iran through land border crossings, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the MEA, said on Friday.

BJP blames Oppn for panic

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Alleging that the Congress and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) were trying to create panic among the public about LPG shortages, the BJP on Friday said that such reports were emerging only from states ruled by these parties.

BJP IT Department head Amit Malviya said Karnataka was the first state from where reports of LPG shortages surfaced, followed by West Bengal.

He also alleged that Samajwadi Party (SP) leaders in Uttar Pradesh were found hoarding LPG cylinders.

"Karnataka was incidentally the first state from where reports of LPG shortages began to surface. Soon after, similar news emerged from West Bengal. Media reports now suggest that Samajwadi Party leaders in Uttar Pradesh are hoarding gas cylinders," Malviya said in a post on X.

Hyd gets down to basics: tomato or lemon rice & idli

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

In Hyderabad's bustling Hi-Tech City IT corridor, where lakhs of bachelors reside in hostels and paying-guest facilities (PGs), menus have shrunk to basics like idli for breakfast, and tomato rice and lemon rice for lunch and dinner in the wake of commercial LPG supply disruption.

Rough estimates suggest that there are at least 11 lakh IT and software employees and students living in about 11,000 PGs and hostels in the IT corridor of Madhapur, Gachibowli, Kondapur, Hi-Tech City, Ameerpet, Kukatpally, and Dilsukhnagar.

All the hostels have halted the making of chapati, dosa, puri, and other time- or oil-intensive breakfasts.

"We are not preparing any curries at all... We have also stopped serving coffee and tea," a hostel operator in Gachibowli's DLF area told *DH*.

Some are cooking on firewood, coal, and tandoors. Almost all restaurants have stopped supplying takeaway orders, and banquets have been suspended.

Electricity-powered coffee and tea-vending machines are running in most IT companies. However, canteens have restricted offerings to only idlis or simple rice items.

A popular mess in Madhapur and Ameerpet, famous for lavish thalis, has restricted service to just one curry.

Many caterers are refunding advances taken for wedding food preparations; the second spell of the wedding season begins on March 18. Some or trimming menus if the clients agree, a popular caterer in Chikkadpally told *DH*. Small eateries have shuttered due to LPG shortages.

'We could see missiles being fired'

MUMBAI, DHNS

A merchant navy captain from Mumbai has been stranded with his ship, carrying LPG and a 33-member crew, in the Strait of Hormuz amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia that has disrupted the world's busiest energy corridor.

Capt Virendra Vishwakarma remains in touch with his family — wife Nilpa, daughter Nirvi and son Vedansh — who live in Dahisar East.

The vessel is loaded with 36 lakh domestic LPG cylinders.

"He has told us about the situation... they could see projectiles flying around," his wife Nilpa said, adding that the family is in touch with the shipping company.

The ship reportedly has sufficient rations on board.

Nilpa added that he has been at sea for three months and was off the Oman coast on May 2, when the conflict between US-Israel and Iran escalated.

During a video call, Capt Vishwakarma told his wife that naval convoys had assured them of an escort out of the area. "We could see missiles being fired... being intercepted... it is disturbing," he said.

The ship is bound for Deendayal Port (formerly Kandla Port) in the Kutch district of Gujarat.

Modi is working for the US, alleges Rahul

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that he had "surrendered" before the United States.

"Narendra Modi is finished psychologically... he is no longer working as India's PM, he is working for the US," Rahul said while addressing party workers at an event organised to mark the forthcoming birth anniversary of BSP founder and Dalit leader Kanshi Ram.

"Modi has compromised the country's energy security. America is deciding who we should buy oil from. The situation in the energy sector will deteriorate further," he added.

He said that he wanted to raise the issue in Parliament but was not allowed to speak.

Rahul added that the trade deal with the US was not in the country's interest.

Cong shop of false promises: Modi

PM launches projects worth Rs 4.5k cr in poll-bound Assam

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Targeting the Congress ahead of the Assam Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday alleged that the Opposition party is a "dukan" (shop) of false promises.

"People across Assam, including Bodoland, have gone through difficult times and suffered due to long conflicts. The Congress kept the people of Bodoland engrossed in false promises. Assam and Bodoland witnessed the Congress' betrayal for decades. They signed agreements just for show. The Congress is a shop of false promises," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Guwahati on Friday. PTI

"But since the people of Assam ousted the Congress and chose us, the double-engine government of the NDA has been relentlessly trying to protect Assam's heritage as well as script new chapters of development," said the prime minister while virtually inaugurating and laying foundation stones for projects worth Rs 4,500 crore.

Modi was scheduled to address a public meeting in Kokrajhar, the headquarters of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) comprising five districts, close to the border with Bhutan.

The prime minister had to cancel the trip due to bad weather, and addressed the meeting virtually from the state capital Guwahati.

Modi said that Bodoland, which witnessed a protracted period of militancy, was brought back to the path of peace and development with the signing of two peace accords: one in 2003 and another in 2020, both during the NDA's tenure at the Centre.

Oppn: BJP made U-turn on pre-poll promises

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The Opposition parties in Assam on Friday asked the Prime Minister why the BJP made a "U-turn" on its pre-poll promises, including regarding mega dams, the foreigners' issue, floods, and the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six more ethnic communities.

The Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP) asked why the Centre did not fulfil the promise Modi made before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections that all foreigners would be sent back.

"Instead of sending back the foreigners, the Modi government brought in the CAA to offer Indian citizenship to Bangladeshi Hindus. Is this not a U-turn?" the party asked in a statement.

The party asked why Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, had not been implemented despite promise by Modi before polls.

Maha govt tables anti-conversion bill

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The Devendra Fadnavis-led Maha Yuti government on Friday tabled the Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill 2026, which has stringent provisions to prohibit religious conversions carried out through allurement in the form of gratification of easy money or material benefit, coercion, fraud, or marriage.

The Bill was tabled in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly by Minister of State for Home Pankaj Bhoyar. The state Cabinet had earlier approved the draft legislation on March 5.

Once the Bill is passed, Maharashtra will join states like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttarakhand that have enacted similar laws to regulate religious conversions.

The draft Bill, which runs into 11 pages, mentions that those involved in unlawful conversions on the pretext of marriage will be punished with imprisonment of seven years and shall also be liable for a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

Violations in respect of a minor, a person of unsound mind, a woman or a person belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be punished with imprisonment of seven years and a fine of Rs 5 lakh.

On the other hand, mass conversions will have a jail term of seven years and a fine of Rs 5 lakh, and repeat offenders can get a jail sentence of 10 years and a fine of Rs 5 lakh.

The proposed law mandates that individuals intending to convert to any religion must provide a notice 60 days prior to the authorities, and after the conversion, the individual will have to complete registration within 25 days.

TVK goes into huddle over alliance possibility

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Amid speculation that the BJP was sending strong feelers, actor Vijay's TVK on Friday went into a huddle to discuss whether the party should enter into an alliance for the April-May Assembly polls or contest independently.

Sources told *DH* that TVK general secretary 'Bussy' N Anand, a close confidante of Vijay for the past 10 years, urgently convened an online meeting of district secretaries on Friday afternoon to discuss several election-related issues, including the alliance question, and appointing micro-observers for all 234 Assembly seats.

Anand asked the 120 district secretaries whether TVK should form an alliance or contest independently without mentioning with whom the party would ally.

A majority of the district secretaries are understood to have favoured an alliance to defeat the DMK, while the remaining left the decision to Vijay. "Anand did not mention BJP or AIADMK during the meeting. Almost everyone said they will abide by Vijay's decision," a top source told *DH*.

Govt introduces Transgender Bill in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar on Friday introduced an amendment bill to redefine "transgender" and impose stricter penalties for offences against the community.

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 was introduced in the LS without a mention in the revised list of business. It proposes two key changes: revising the definition of who qualifies as a transgender person under the law and introducing graded punishments for offences committed against them.

As per the amended definition, persons with socio-cultural identities such as kinner, hijra, aravani, jogta and eunuch, as well as persons with intersex variations such as congenital variations in primary sexual characteristics, genitalia, chromosomal patterns, gonadal development or hormone production, will be considered transgender. Additionally, individuals who undergo mutilation, emasculation, castration, or surgical, chemical or hormonal procedures to outwardly present a transgender identity will also be defined as transgender.

Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha on Friday. PTI

However, in a move that could affect several in the LGBTQI community, the amendment bill does not recognise those with different sexual orientations or self-perceived gender identities.

The Bill's Statement of Objects and Reasons states that only those who face "severe social exclusion due to biological reasons" will be recognised.

Lift suspension of 8 MPs: Oppn

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Opposition leaders have urged the government and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to revoke the suspension of eight MPs, seven from the Congress and one from the CPM, who faced the action during the first leg of the Budget session last month for "unruly" behaviour.

Sources said senior MPs K C Venugopal (Congress), Dharmendra Yadav (Samajwadi Party), Kanimozhi (DMK), Shatabdi Roy (Trinamool Congress), and Supriya Sule (NCP-SP) met Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday, urging him to take steps to revoke the eight lawmakers' suspension. The MPs were suspended on February 3.

Govt urges Opposition to let Parliament run on March 28-29

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre has asked the Opposition if Parliament can be run during the March 28-29 weekend, as it wants to bring important legislation and make up for the losses due to disruptions.

The proposal comes as the ongoing Budget Session's second phase has seen repeated disruptions by Opposition protests and the government refusing to cede ground.

The Centre has cited a cluster of public holidays this month, including Gudi Padwa, Ugadi, Eid, and Ram Navami, as the reason for the compressed working calendar. One key legislation is a Bill to delink the Women's Reservation Bill from delimitation.

CENTENNIAL DRIVE

RSS launches mega outreach in Kerala ahead of polls

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a move likely to draw political attention ahead of the Kerala elections, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has launched a massive campaign in the Left-ruled state, reaching out to minority households, holding Hindu Sanmelans and organising youth programmes.

As part of a nationwide contact programme spanning 10 crore homes across 3,90,000 villages — rolled out last year to mark its centennial celebrations — the RSS reached out to over 55,000 Muslim households and 54,000 Christian households in Kerala alone, RSS Sah Sarkaryavah CR Mukund told reporters on the sidelines of the organisation's three-day annual meet, the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, which began on Friday.

In the last week of February, the RSS held a youth conference for participants below 45 years of age in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi, which saw an attendance of 870 people. Earlier in the month, the organisation had also conducted a programme for youth in the 20-40 age group, attended by 662 individuals.

The saffron outfit's concerted push in Kerala has continued for months, even as several temples across Kerala have imposed a ban on RSS activities. To offset opposition, the organisation has planned over 1,000 Hindu Sanmelans in the state by the end of March. Nationwide, the RSS has conducted Hindu conferences at 36,000 locations.

The RSS has the second-highest number of shakhas in Kerala, with around 5,500, after Uttar Pradesh, which has about 8,000. Many shakhas in Kerala used to function near temples, but efforts are now being made to shift them away from temple premises in order to attract people from other religions.

The most ambitious programme in the state has been the Mahamagham Mahotsavam, or the Kerala Kumbh Mela, held in Malappuram in the first week of February, which received a positive response.

The RSS' three-day annual meet, the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, currently underway in Samalkha, was inaugurated by Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat and Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale.

(With inputs from Arjun Raghunath)

Drugs worth Rs 47 cr seized in Andhra

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted a clandestine facility engaged in the production of alprazolam, a psychotropic substance under the NDPS Act, 1985, in the Kondapalli Industrial Development Area of the NTR district in Andhra Pradesh.

The operation was carried out on March 11 and 12 and revealed a full-fledged industrial setup for the production of alprazolam, operating under the guise of a chemical manufacturing unit.

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State, Tele: (08537) 275022
CIN No.U85110KA1947SGC001321

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

The Hutti Gold Mines requires **Medical Officers** on Contract Basis, for its 120 bedded hospital situated at HUTTI, Raichur District(Karnataka).

1	**Medical Officers**	:	**2 Posts**
	Qualification	:	**MBBS**
	Consolidated Salary	:	**Rs.75,000/- (Per Month)**

Walk-in-interview will be conducted **on 27.03.2026** during working hours **between 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m** at the Company's Administrative Office at Hutti–584 115. At the time of Interview, the candidates are required to submit their Resume and produce original documents of their academic qualification, experience, caste etc. along with a set of photo copies of the above documents and passport size photographs.

Sd/- I/c General Manager (Co-ordination).

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

Government of Karnataka

Department Of Health and Family Welfare

OFFICE OF THE HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT, VIJAYANAGAR DIST
E-mail: dhovijayanagara21@gmail.com
Telephone: 08394-227040

No: DHO/ACC-2/DMF-244/2025-26 Date:12-03-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar is inviting application from Man Power agencies for outsourcing the services of Dialysis Technician, Driver, Group-D, Non-Clinical, Under DMF Fund for the Financial Year 2026-27 for the period of one Year through e-procurement (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) portal. (Amount to Put to Tender 81.00 Lakhs) (INDENT NUMBER:DHFWS/2025-26/SE2066)

Interested eligible Tenderers can upload the document between date:12-03-2026 to date: 23-03-2026 time up to 05:00 pm.

For more information tenderers may contact the office phone number :08394-227040 or in persons during office hours.

Sd/-District health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/591

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ENTERPRISE)
Office of the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Canal Investigation, Division, Hebbur, ph-0816-2957008 Tumkur District-572120

Karnataka Public Procurement Short term Tender Notification No.09/2025-26 Dated: 10.03.2026

On behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Canal Investigation Division, Hebburu, invites Short term tender on "Item Rate" basis from eligible contractors for 03 Works. Starting date for submission of bids is Dt: 12.03.2026 and Last date for submission of bids is Dt: 26.03.2026 till 4.30 PM. Further details can be obtained from this office and through the internet at the website address www.kppp. karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
CNNL, H.C.I. Division, Hebbur.

DIPR/TUM/489/KSMCA/2025-26

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka

4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041
registrar@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601928

No. RGUHSB/RRACCMPS(ITI)/02/2025 (84004) Date: 13/03/2026

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for SERVICE PROVIDER FOR PROVIDING SERVICE OF FINANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM at RGUHS. More details on the Service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

Tender No. RGUHSK/2025-26/SE0024/Call-3

1	Tender document available for downloaded	13-03-2026, 12:21 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	23-03-2026, 12:00 Hrs.
3	Last date for Receipt of Tender	30-03-2026, 17:30 Hrs.
4	Opening of Technical Bid	01-04-2026, 11:30 Hrs.
5	Opening of Financial Bid	02-04-2026, 12:00 Hrs.
6	Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Registrar

DIPR/CP/6237/AKAR/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga
Ph: 08182-222943 **Email ID:** spdivision@gmail.com

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two-cover system) (Through KPP portal)

IFT No. 49/2025-26 Date: 11.03.2026

Tenders are invited by the undersigned through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 1999-2000 and Act 2000 and Standard Tender Document KW-3 in Double Cover system from the contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department in Class 3 and above to undertake the approved works under Heads of Account 4059-80-051-0-60-132 – Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Project (CMIDP) Development of District Main Road from Ch. 21.80 KM to 22.80 KM of Theerthahalli – Koppa Border Kattehakkalu in Theerthahalli Taluk, (indent No. 34279) and 3054-04-337-1-10-200 – Maintenance of District and Other Roads in the limits of Public Works Department Special Division, Shivamogga and Land Plan Survey Works of other Roads (Indent No. 34113). The maximum amount put to tender is **Rs 84.74 lakhs** and minimum amount **Rs 59.21 lakhs.** The maximum amount of EMD is Rs 1.695 lakhs and minimum is **Rs 1.185 lakhs**. The period for completion of works as mentioned in kpp portal.

The eligible contractors should note the minimum qualification criteria in Section 2 of Class-3 (instructions to tenderers) mentioned in e-procurement portal : **http//:kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The tenders shall be downloaded from e-portal from **11.03.2026 to 18.03.2026 upto 5.00 P M.** The tenders should be submitted before **18.03.2026 upto 5.00 pm** through kpp portal.The technical bids will be opened in kpp portal on **19.03.2026 at 5.30 P M.** And the commercial bid will be opened after **20.03.2026.** Any changes/corrigendum will be published in kpp portal only. More details can be had from the undersigned during office hours. The details given in the website is final.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No. 77-03/ Zenkar/2025-26

NORTH WESTERN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

CENTRAL OFFICES, HUBBALLI

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.14/2025-26 DATE: 13-03-2026

Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP)

Tenders are invited from the interested bidders for supply of the materials as shown below:-

Sl.No.	Description of the tender	Tender Value (Approx.)
1	Tyres, Tubes and Flaps.	Rs.1817.00 lakh
2	Gear and Gear Parts	Rs.819.00 lakh
3	PCTR (Tread Rubber) and Allied Materials	Rs.642.00 lakh
4	Gaskets.	Rs.234.00 lakh
5	Tie Rod, Push Rod, Kits, Ends and Assemblies.	Rs.145.00 lakh
6	Phenol Bonded Densified Compressed Wooden Floor Boards.	Rs.82.00 lakh
7	Plywood Sheets	Rs.64.02 lakh

Last date and time for submission of bids: For the tenders at **Sl. No.1 to 4 is 13-04-2026,** for the tenders at **Sl. No.5 to 7 it is 02-04-2026** till **17.30 Hrs.**
For details visit website :http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Or Contact Mobile Phone **No. 7022009113.**

Sd/-
Controller of Stores & Purchases,
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/Dharwad/1352/Deshpandepublicity/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರಕಛೇರಿ,

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಸಂ: 30/2025–2026 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.03.2026

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮದ್ದೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW-3ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 13–03–2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ 25–03–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 26–03–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 27–03–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 30–03–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 3 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 1 (ಒಂದು) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.100.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: 1. ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
2. ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾ.ಇಂ.,ಲೋ.ಇ., ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಲೋ.ಇ./ಬಾ.ವಿ./ಪಿ.ಬಿ./ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ/2025–26/5539 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12–03–2026

ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999 – 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ – 1, 2, 3, 4 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ : 05212 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26–02–2026** ರಲ್ಲಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವರ್ಕ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ : 32411, 31110, 34052.

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 200.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 30.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ) ಪೂರ್ವ ಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	26–03–2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ.
ಬ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	01–04–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಕ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	02–04–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಡ) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	04–04–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ವರ್ಕ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ : 31113, 31108, 31111, 31106, 31119, 31116, 31117, 33968, 34136, 33988.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ : 34157.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ : 34150.

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 400.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 10.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ) ಪೂರ್ವ ಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	20–03–2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ.
ಬ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	23–03–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಕ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	24–03–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಡ) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	25–03–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಚ) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	26–03–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರವಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವೈಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ/649/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ.: ಕಾ.ಇಂ,/ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿಉ// ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ. 22/2025–26:ಎಇ–4872/ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪದ್ದತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **e-portal** ನಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಉಡುಪಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರಿಂದ 2025–26 ಸಾಲಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವಿಪತ್ತು ಉಪಶಮನ ನಿಧಿ **(SDMF)** ರಡಿಯ ಅನುದಾನದ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪದ್ದತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Standard Tender Documents for Procurement of Goods) ನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗೊಳ ಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು Government of Karnataka e-procurement portal WEB site https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ
1	Construction of a Retaining wall at landslide area of Palimar Kote road in the Palimaru Grama Panchayath area of kaup Taluk, (Reserved For CAT-IIA)	70.00	70000.00	ಕ್ಲಾಸ್–3 ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು (CAT-IIA ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಮಾತ್ರ)
2	Construction of a Retaining Wall at landslide area of Maltaru Katchettu, Handadi Grama Panchayath of Brahmavara Taluk.	15.00	37500.00	ಕ್ಲಾಸ್–4 ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು
3	Protection wall at Huiyaramakki on kabbinale Marmannu Nadubettu link road Madamakki village of Hebri Taluk.	100.00	200000.00	ಕ್ಲಾಸ್–3 ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು
4	Protection wall at hill behind Durga Anganavadi in Durga Village of Kakala Taluk.	30.00	60000.00	ಕ್ಲಾಸ್–3 ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು
5	Construction of a Retaining Wall at landslide area of near the Government Higher Primary School, Mudradi Grama Panchayath of Hebri Taluk, (Reserved For CAT-IIA)	60.00	60000.00	ಕ್ಲಾಸ್–3 ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು (CAT-IIA ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಮಾತ್ರ)

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12–03–2026 ರಿಂದ 20–03–2026ರ 4.00 (PM) ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
2. ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23–03–2026 ರ 10.00 (AM) ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ
3. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26–03–2026 ರ 11.00 (AM) ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.

ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ನಿಬಂದನೆಗಳು, ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಚೇರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ

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BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1.On behalf of the President of India, item- rate tender is invited for the following work:

Description	Details	Details
Name of work	Painting of AITF-1 Clean Room and Airlock Area at ISITE Campus, URSC, Marathahalli, Bengaluru- 560037	Modification to the Chemistry Lab Ground Floor at Kendriya Vidyalaya School, NAL, Jeevan Bhima Nagar, Bengaluru (Civil & PH Works)
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C&MG/C/M/39/2025-26, Dt.13/03/2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/40/2025-26, Dt.13/03/2026
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 39.02 Lakhs	₹ 20.48 Lakhs
Period of completion in months	Six (06) Months	Three (03) Months
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 78,040/- valid for 180 Days**	**₹ 40,960/- valid for 180 Days**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in **website: www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Established under the State Financial Corporation Act 1951)
BRANCH OFFICE: NO.18-21, Sector No-24, 6th Main, "G" Cross, Navanagar, Bagalkot-587 102.
Tel. Ph. No. Fax.No. 08354 -235482, Email: bgk@ksfc.co

SALE OF ASSETS THROUGH "e"- AUCTION

The following immovable/movable properties, which have been taken over for recovery of dues under SECTION 29 OF SFCS ACT. 1951, and under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESIA) are available for sale on "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" basis through e-auction. Interested persons are requested to participate in the bid, through e-auction.

Sl. No.	NAME OF THE UNIT	PROPERTY AVAILABLE FOR SALE (MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE)
1	M/s C G ROCKS: Plot No.1, K S S I D C Industrial Estate, N H-50 Ilkal Road, Hungund Dist:Bagalkot, Proprietor : Sri Kiran K Patil Personal Guarantor: Smt Suman K Patil Dues as on 10.02.2026 Rs. 1,10,02,666/- + Further interest & other debits	**LAND AND BUILDING:** Plot No.1, Sy.161/1 & 161/2 (Part) measuring 40M x 25M Total:1,000 sq.mtr. Situated at KSSIDC Industrial Estate, NH-50 Ilkal Road, Amravati Village Tq: Hungund Dist: Bagalkot, East : Road West : Estate Boundary North : Plot No.2 South : KSSIDC Land Reserve Price **Rs.79,37,000/-** EMD **Rs.7,93,000/-** **PLANT & MACHINERIES:** required for granite cutting and polishing industry Reserve Price **Rs.4,47,000/- EMD Rs. 44,700/-**
2	**M/s Noble Stones :** Sy. No.61/1, VPC No.113/B, NH-50, Amaravati Village, Raichur Raod, Tq: Hungund, Dist: Bagalkot **Partners:** (1) Sri Korrapatti Ramkrshna V and (2) Sri Basavaraj B Katapurmath **Personal Guarantors:** (1) Sri Korrapatti Ramkrishna V (2) Sri Basavaraj B Katapurmath (3) Sri Basavaraj L Siriwar (4) Sri Gonaguntala P Kondaiah and (5) Sri Bommlingayya V Katapurmath Dues as on **10.02.2026 Rs.4,29,41,953** + Further interest & other debits	**3. M/s Noble Granites :** Sy. No.61/1, VPC NO.113/A, NH-50, Amaravati Village, Raichur Road, Tq: Hungund, Dist: Bagalkot **Parnters:** (1)Sri Basavaraj L Siriwar and (2) Sri Gona guntala P Kondaiah **Personal Guarantors:** (1) Sri Basavaraj L Sirwar (2) Sri Gonaguntala P Kondaiah (3) Sri Korrapatti Ramakrishna V (4)Sri Basavaraj B Katapurmath (5) Sri Bommlingayya V Katapurmath. Dues as on **10.02.2026 Rs.4,52,27,232** + Further interest & other debits
3	**PLANT AND MACHINERY :** required for granite cutting and polishing unit **LAND AND BUILDING OF M/S. NOBLE STONES AND M/S. NOBLE GRANITES:** Land bearing Sy. No.61/1, G P C No.113 (which comprises GPC No.113/A, 113/B and 113/C), NH-50 Amaravathi Village, Raichur Road, Tq: Hungund, Dist : Bagalkot. Measuring 2Acres 15Guntas (including Road, Garden and Parking etc.,) Building measures-2242 sq.mtr (M/s. Noble Stones - 855.00 sq.mtr, M/s. Noble Granites - 1,266.00 sq.mtr & labour shed.121 sq mtr. East : Sy.No.61/2, West : Govt Hall, North : Sy.No.60 & Road South : Sy.No.62/2 NA Land **1) LAND AND BUILDING: Reserve Price Rs.98,83,000/- EMD Rs.9,88,300 /-** **2) PLANT & MACHINERIES : Reserve Price Rs.18,11,000/- EMD Rs.1,81,100/-**	
4	**M/s Shivam Granites :** Plot NO.20 & 21, Sy NO.161/1 & 161/2A (Part), KSSIDC Industrial Estate, NH-50, Hungund, Dist : Bagalkot **Proprietor:** Sri Hiralal V Suthara **Guarantor:** Sri Kashinath M Kammar Dues as on **10.02.2026 Rs.3,09,18,509 +** Further interest and other debits	**Land and Building :** Plot NO.20 and 21, Sy. NO.161/1 and 161/2A measuring 40 mtrs., x 50 mtrs., (Totally 2000 Square Meters) situat KSSIDC Industrial Estate, NH-50, Hunagund, Dist : Bagalkot East : Road West : Plot No.13 & 14, North : Plot No.19, South : Plot No.57 **Reserve Price:** Rs.1,64,75,000/-, EMD Rs.16,47,500/- **Plant and machinery :** required for granite cutting and polishing u **Reserve Price:** Rs.9,02,000/-, E M D Rs.90,200/-
5	**M/s Shubha Granites :** Plot NO.4, Sy NO.161/1 & 161/2, KSSIDC Industrial Estate, NH-50, Hungund, Dist : Bagalkot **Proprietor:** Sri Muttappa L Chavan **Guarantors:** (1) Sri Muttappa Limbappa Chavan (2) Smt Gangamma W/o Virupakshgowda Patil (3) Sri Basappa S/o Gundappa Moolimani (4) Sri Virupaksha-gowda S Patil (5) Sri Babulal C Lohiya Dues as on **10.02.2026 Rs.73,81,735/-** + Further interest and other debits.	**Land and Building :** Plot NO.4, Sy. NO.161/1 and 161/2, measuring mtrs., x 25 mtrs., (Totally 1000 Square Meters) situated at KSSIDC Industrial Estate, NH-50, Hunagund, Dist : Bagalkot. East : Road West : Estate Boundary North : Plot No.5 South : Plot No.3 **Reserve Price:** Rs.82,47,000/-, EMD Rs.8,24,700/- **Plant and machinery :** required for granite cutting and polishing **Reserve Price:** Rs.6,03,000/- E M D Rs.60,300/-
6	**M/s Amrut Mineral Industries:** Sy. No.168/2b/2, Jamakhandi Road, Mudhol, Dist: Bagalkot **Proprietor:** Sri Chandrashekhar Shivappa Managuli Personal Guarantor: Sri Suresh Shivappa Managuli Dues as on **10.02.2026 Rs. 1,37,25,111/- +** **Further interest & other debits**	**PLANT & MACHINERIES :** required for Lime stone Crushing unit. Reserve Price **Rs.1,64,000/-** EMD **Rs.16,400/-**
7	**M/s.Venkateshwar Granites :** Plot No.6, Sy.No.161/1, KSSIDC Indl. Estate, Amaravti, Hungund, Dist : Bagalkot **Proprietor :** Sri.Hulagappa Bhimappa Gudagunti **Personal Guarantor :** 1) Sri.Venkatesh Hulagappa Gudagunti 2) Sri. Hulagappa Bhimappa Gudagunti Dues as on **10.02.2026 Rs.22,00,985/- +** Further interest & other debits	**Land and Building :** Plot No.6, Sy.No.161/1, KSSIDC Indl. Estate, Amaravti, Hungund. Dist : Bagalkot, measuring 40 mtrs., x 25 mtrs (Totally 1000 Square Meters) East : Road West : Estate Boundary North : Plot No.7 South : Plot No.5 **Reserve Price: Rs.77,05,000/- E M D Rs.77,050/-**
8	**M/s. Lahoti Stones,** Sy No.137/2 Balakundi Road, Ilkal. **Partnership.**1)Smt. Leeladevi R Lahoti 2) Sri.Jagadish Ramgopal Lahoti **Personal Guarantor :** Ramagopal R Lahoti Dues as on **10.02.2026 Rs. 1,90,69,176/- +** Further interest & other debits	**Land and Building :** Sy.No.137/2, Balakundi Village, Tq:Ilkal, Me : 2Acer-32 Guntas **Plant and machinery :** required for granite cutting and polishing East : RS No.137(Part) Agriculture Land West : RS No.137 (Part), North : RS No.128 South : Gajendragada to Ilkal Main Road **Reserve Price Rs.4,39,59,000/- EMD Rs.43,95,900/-**
	SALE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SARFAESI ACT-2002.	
1	**M/s Amruth Mineral Industries,** Sy. NO.168/2b/2, Mudhol, Dist: Bagalkot represented by its proprietor Sri Chandrashekhar S Managuli and **Personal Guarantor :** Sri Suresh S Managuli Dues as on **10.02.2026 Rs. 1,37,25,111/- +** **Further interest & other debits**	Residential building bearing C T S No.149/A, measuring 51.75 Sq situated at Ward No.1, Malali Galli, Bazar Road, Mudhol, Dist: Bastanding in the name of Sri Chandrashekhara Shivappa Managuli **bounded by :** East : C T S No.148 West : Road North: Road & CTS No.149/B South : CTS No.147 **Reserve Price : Rs.15,72,000/- EMD Rs.1,57,200/-**
2	M/s. AYLI STONE INDUSTRIES, Represented by its Partners Sri Srikanth N Ayli, Sri Mohan N Ayli, & Sri Vishwanath Ningappa Ayli, Kotwal Pet, Ilkal, Dist:Bagalkot, and Personal Guarantors : The Directors of M/s NYS Granites Impex Pvt Ltd., (1) Sri Nagaraj Vittappa Muddebihal (2) Smt Bharati Nagaraj (3) Sri Shrikanth Narayanappa Ayli (4) Sri Mohan Narayanappa Ayli (5) Smt Mamata W/o Yamanurappa Saka (6) Sri Yamanur Narasappa Saka (7) Sri Vishwanath N Ayli **Dues as on 10.02.2026 Rs.53,09,872/- lakhs +** **Further interest & other debits.**	The open plots converted for industrial purpose, bearing No.1,2,3 formed out of Re. Sy.No.137/3, VPC No.636, 637, 638, 639 and 6 KJP Sy. NO.137/B, each plot measuring 1458 Sq. Mtrs., 559 Sq, 432 Sq. Mtrs., 432 Sq. Mtrs., and 405 Sq. Mtrs., respectively, all s adjacent to each other and are situated at Balkundi village, Taluk: Dist: Bagalkot, having common boundaries as detailed below: (Th Property standing in the name of Sri S N Ayli and Sri Y N Saka) **As per sale deed** **East :** NA Land of Sri Katwa **West :** Road Road **North :** Road Road **South :** Agriculture land **As per ADLR Map** **East :** Neighbours land **West :** Road **North :** Road **South :** Neighbours land **Reserve Price : Rs.34,02,000/- EMD Rs.3,40,200/-**
3	**M/s Kashilingeshwara Oil Mill,** represented by its proprietor Sri Siddaraya Basappa Mali, Gothe village, Jamakhandi Taluk, Bagalkot District. **Dues as on 10.02.2026 Rs.2,15.44,315/- +** **Further interest and other debits.**	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing VPC NO. 189/A/4 No.1, measuring 45'x22' situated at Gothe village, Taluk: Jamakha Dist: Bagalkot, standing in the name of Sri Siddaraya Basappa M **bounded by:** East : Open space of Bhimappa Chenappa West : House belongs to Lakshman Gondappa North : House belongs to Basappa Bhimappa South : Government Road. **Reserve Price : Rs.1,58,000/- EMD Rs.15,800/-**

Calendar of Events.
1) Auction Published Date and Time : **18-02-2026 at 11:00 AM.**
2) Date and Time up to which Auction Notice Document can be downloaded: **20.03.2026 at 4:00PM.**
3) Last date and time for payment of EMD **20.03.2026 at 4:00 PM.**
4) Auction starts Date: **23.03.226 at 11:00 AM.**
5) Auction End Date: **30.03.2026 at 4:00 PM.**
6) Date of inspection of the property: **03.03.2026 between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

The terms and conditions of sale through e-auction are detailed on website viz, http.//eproc.karnataka.gov.in The Borrowers/Interested Persons/Personal Guarantors and Collateral Security owners are advised to bring better offer and visit the aforesaid website.

Date : 17.02.2026
Place : Bagalkot

Sd/- Asst. General Manager
K S F C – BO : BAGALKOT

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Euthanasia: Law must follow SC lead

By directing the removal of artificial life support to a person who was in a vegetative state for almost 13 years, the Supreme Court of India has advanced the idea of passive euthanasia. Delivering separate but concurring orders, the bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan held that withdrawing life-sustaining support would be in the best interests of the patient. The parents of Harish Rana, who sustained serious head injuries in a fall from the fourth floor of a building, had no hope of his return to normal life. Euthanasia involves multiple issues linked to the right to dignity in life and death, self-determination, and bodily autonomy. It also involves the rights of the family and the doctors in deciding about the life of another person. The subject constitutes a complex interplay of ethics, law, medical knowledge, social responsibility, and individual and familial values.

The apex court's view on euthanasia has evolved. In 2024, it rejected a request by Rana's parents to remove the life support system, citing that feeding tubes cannot be considered a medical intervention. In the *Aruna Shanbaug* case in 2011, the Court recognised the idea of passive euthanasia under stringent conditions. *The Common Cause v Union of India* case of 2018 took that jurisprudence forward and recognised the "right to die with dignity" as a fundamental right under Article 21. It laid down the legal framework for passive euthanasia with the observation that "accelerating the process of death for reducing the period of suffering constitutes a right to live with dignity." It also accepted the idea of a "living will" that allows execution of a patient's choice of euthanasia, made in a competent state of mind.

The onus is now on Parliament to enact a comprehensive law governing the right to die with dignity

In the 2018 judgment, the Court said its directives would hold good only till Parliament enacted a law on the subject. In the latest ruling, too, it has urged the government to pursue the framing of a comprehensive legislation. As the Court stated in its ruling, judicial directives can only serve as constitutional interventions before Parliament discharges its role. It is argued that even with all the guidelines provided by the Court, there may be room for misuse. Families and medical care providers may run into procedural hurdles even when they follow these guidelines. The Harish Rana case should be the pivot towards a law that clearly defines the protocols and safeguards, the role of doctors, consent of family, and the application of oversight mechanisms, if necessary.

BDA under RERA is a win for the people

The Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal's verdict holding the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) accountable under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, is a long-overdue victory for thousands of citizens. The order pertains specifically to the troubled Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout project, but its implications extend far beyond a single development. By ruling that the BDA is a promoter under RERA in this case, the tribunal has effectively established a principle that will apply to all similar layouts developed and sold by the Authority. Under Section 2(zk) of RERA, the definition of a promoter explicitly includes development authorities and other public bodies undertaking such activities. That the BDA nevertheless sought an exemption not available under the law raises questions about the legal advice the Authority relies upon.

The tribunal was equally clear that a central law, such as RERA, has overriding authority over state statutes like the BDA Act of 1976 when regulating the real estate sector and protecting consumers. Allowing the BDA to operate outside this framework would create a dangerous double standard where private builders face strict oversight while a government agency enjoys regulatory immunity. The case also exposes a troubling attitude within the BDA. Instead of acknowledging its obligations and addressing the grievances of allottees, the Authority chose to contest the applicability of a law meant to protect citizens. Such legal obstinacy reflects a mindset that views accountability as an inconvenience rather than a responsibility. The political leadership must also share the blame. Bengaluru Development Minister D K Shivakumar and BDA Chairman N A Harris must explain why the Authority chose litigation over transparency and reform. While the government invokes RERA to discipline private developers, a state agency that has repeatedly defaulted has attempted to place itself above the same law.

The tribunal's verdict strengthens accountability and strikes at a culture of regulatory immunity

Bringing the BDA under RERA means project timelines must be declared, funds must be safeguarded through escrow accounts, and homebuyers gain access to a specialised forum for grievance redressal. In short, the era of opaque functioning must give way to transparency and financial discipline. The BDA would do well to accept the verdict rather than prolong the dispute. More importantly, it must focus on delivering the infrastructure promised in the Kempegowda Layout. The verdict sends an unequivocal message: a statutory authority cannot claim immunity from the laws it expects others to obey. In a city where the aspirations of the middle class are tied to the dream of owning a home, institutional credibility must be the bedrock of the BDA's functioning.

STRIKE IN THE DARK

The costs of America's whimsical war

Unclear objectives, a resilient Iran, and the threat of regional escalation may prolong the conflict

LT GEN HARINDER SINGH (RETD)

Wars must have a purpose. When leaders easily change their minds, the war's aims look whimsical. From "destroying the nuclear stockpile" to "changing regimes", the United States' strikes speak as much about its shifting priorities in Iran. It draws deep scepticism when they urge the Iranians to rise and overthrow a functional regime. Clearly, a country the size of Iran cannot be transformed from the air, least of all by striking fear into the populace.

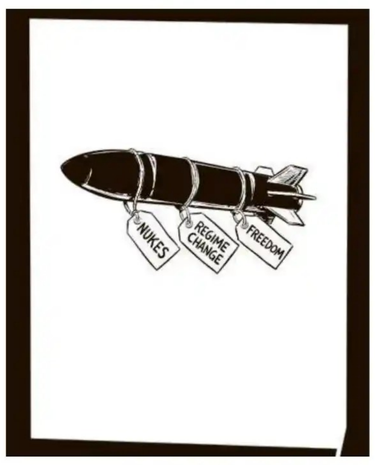
The assumption that Iran would quickly fold has proved wrong. Rather, if the war were to prolong, it would put the US military build-up to test, while Iran would continue to undertake slow, significant retaliatory strikes. A protracted conflict might even force the US to commit ground troops or declare a quick victory and exit the region. The question then is, where the war is headed, how long it will last, and at what cost to all.

Three aspects are pertinent. First, there is little doubt that theocratic regimes can be autocratic, but that does not call for decapitation. Besides, the strikes on non-military targets might have come as a shock, even to those who might loathe the regime. No citizenry would want the country to be attacked, its economy destroyed, even if there is visible frustration with the Iranian government.

Second, a regime change is less likely to bring in a more amenable leadership. Instead, the new dispensation, after the brutal lesson in power, is not likely to stop threatening the US and its allies in West Asia. There is also the dangerous possibility of strengthening Iran's resolve to produce a nuclear weapon. A resurgent Iran will keep the region volatile, with the war lasting at its own pace, causing a spike in oil prices and inflationary trends.

Third, if the war prolongs, Iran's leaders might be tempted to expand the conflict. This evokes memories of the 1980s tanker war. In this age, a tanker war could be even more lethal. Uncrewed surface vehicles (USVs) can strike hard along the waterline to maximise damage to vessels. Besides, Iran has inshore attack-craft and missile boats. They also have a small fleet of submersibles, which can lay mines – placing a few would evoke ample fear. Iran's new tanker strategy could provoke a massive global outrage to bring in substantial pressure on the US.

The US possibly had three rules of intervention in Iran: strike fast, take no casualties, and avoid a ground campaign. Early success, like targeting Ayatollah Khamenei, can create the belief that escalation will remain



controllable. However, in conflicts with no precise aims and objectives, the incentives to escalate a fraught conflict are often stronger. And, if professional advice is shaped by political exigency rather than sound military judgment, the risk of escalation increases.

Next, if the aerial strikes fail, there is a tendency to escalate or add another dimension to the conflict. Putting boots on the ground is the obvious choice. The problem is, when the territorial integrity of a State comes into play, it evokes national emotions. Even if the populace hates the regime, it has good reasons to rally behind it for reasons of national pride. Besides, Iran is not a pushover State and the US can ill-afford a land campaign.

On the contrary, Iran has a clear strategy. They are determined not to replicate last year's war: large barrages that were intercepted, resulting in significant losses. This time, they have shifted to a steadier campaign: to drag out the conflict, expand geographies, and impose real costs. Besides, they are firing fewer missiles – the old ones first – at well-dispersed targets. Smaller salvos can lead to faster depletion of interceptors and prove costly in the long term.

Besides, Iran has decentralised its command and control. It has created multiple power centres, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the Artesh, and others, anticipating US action – each one acting without direct instructions, yet aligning to the design of retaliatory strikes. This worked well after the Ayatollah was killed in the initial attacks to coordinate and expand the retaliatory strikes. Iranian intentions are amply clear – to suck the US into a difficult war.

What comes next?

While the US certainly wants a short war, the truth is, it hardly aimed to fight a 20-year-long war in Afghanistan. The longer Iran sustains its missile and drone attacks, the more likely it is to prolong the conflict. Eventually, it turns into a contest of will – of who could hold out longer – in terms of Iran's ability to retaliate versus America's capacity to intercept the strikes. The problem of finite resources – air defence interceptors and counter-drone platforms – could put US readiness levels under stress.

With the conflict shifting to the straits of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb, the risks increase manifold. They are vulnerable for three reasons: geographical location, narrow navigable channels, and the ease of targeting predictable shipping routes. Controlling these "marginal seas" will become important. This necessitates high-cost, 24x7 naval operations: escorting ships, securing a favourable area-defence grid, and coping with skyrocketing shipping costs.

For India, the conflict puts its policy of strategic autonomy under severe test. With the war raging at the far edge of its western oceanic periphery, the concern is not only economic, but also geopolitical. Clearly, it must make sharp policy choices on the US or Iran, lest its growing salience as a leader of the Global South is called into question. It could, at least, have looked beyond the laws of neutrality at sea to call out the targeting of IRIS Dena exiting the Indian Ocean Region.

(The writer is a former military officer)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Namma name game

Bengaluru businesses discovered a short cut to instant belonging

SHYAMALA RAO

Bengalureans of a certain vintage like to complain that the city no longer feels like the one they grew up in. There is a lot of bemoaning the loss of quieter, cleaner roads and an oft-expressed longing for the Bengaluru remembered from "back in our time". Accompanying that nostalgia is the desire to see the city as a place that is still "ours". Businesses, quick to cash in on such things, have found a convenient way to do it, with the prefix *namma*.

They are everywhere now: Namma Café, Namma Laundry, Namma Bakery, and Namma Dosa Corner. Er, *namma* trash heap too, in time. *Namma* simply means 'our', and putting it on a signboard is meant to give the business a friendly neighbourhood vibe that earns your loyalty. It implies a certain homeyness, a promise that the establishment belongs to you.

If you've lived in Bengaluru for a while, you will know the city has seen naming fashions before. A *darshini*, now a common noun meaning a stand-and-eat café, was first a proper noun—the actual name of a pioneering eatery. In the 1980s, a successful clothing shop on Kempe Gowda Road inadvertently started a trend of its own. Little shops calling themselves Shoe Kemp and Bangle Kemp popped up, apparently under the impression that 'Kemp' was a sophisticated retail term meaning something like 'mart'. In fact, it merely referred to the street where the store stood, but that small detail did not prevent the suffix from going up on signboards across the city.

Along with the current affection for *namma*, I see other companion words: the super-industrious *ajji*—Ajji Tiffins, Ajji Kitchen and Ajji Mane Oota. Who doesn't like to think there's a kindly grandmother supervising their *sambar*? Whether any of these places has an actual *ajji* is beside the point. The idea of her is enough: the customer is happy to go along with the fiction. There's also the folksy *halli* (village) on many signboards, with the décor inside suitably pastoral. The promise of hearty simplicity comes with some in-built flattery: this authentic, unpretentious fare is just right for authentic, unpretentious you.

To be fair, *namma* works well in some places. Few things produce a quiet swell of civic pride like the sight of Namma Metro gliding into the station exactly when it is meant to, its doors swishing open precisely where you expect them to. In those moments the word feels perfectly chosen. At others, you might find yourself staring with perplexity at the impossible whimsy of something called Namma Cake Palace.

Of course, the relationship implied by *namma* also creates certain expectations. In the hour of need, who else can we count on but our own people? You take it for granted that *namma* tailor will deliver on time when *namma* niece's wedding is at hand. So, what do you do when you stand there explaining that it's hard for you to come again tomorrow, and he smoothly says, "*Adu nimma problem*"?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India must diversify energy sources to avoid crisis

Apropos 'Lessons from the LPG crunch' (Mar 13), the current countrywide LPG crisis highlights the risks of relying heavily on imported energy. With only 22 days' storage capacity, an extended Gulf conflict could devastate the country. Tapping distant LPG markets to fill supply gaps could be costly. Developing alternative energy sources like biogas plants is a long-term strategy worth pursuing, especially for rural areas. Development of a cost-effective and eco-friendly energy source should be prioritised given the geopolitical situation. Gas marketing companies must ensure fair and transparent supply mechanisms, plugging distribution loopholes to restore consumer trust.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

The Hormuz stress

I refer to 'Iran's new leader vows to keep strategic strait shut' (Mar 13). Mojtaba Khamenei's threat to keep the Strait of Hormuz shut and continue its attacks on the Gulf states will disrupt global oil trade, given the passage's significance. The US and Israel must respond carefully, weighing military action against diplomatic pressure. Prolonged disruption will soar energy prices, straining global economies. Import-dependent nations like India face inflation and economic uncertainty.

P V Prakash, Mumbai

Nurture leaders

Apropos 'Police caught in a leadership vacuum' (Mar 13), it highlights concerns about policing leadership. Effective leadership is crucial for discipline, accountability, and public trust. Authorities should focus on better training, transparent systems, and responsible leadership.

Himadri Kaushik, Bengaluru

Ensure transparency

This is with reference to 'Another credibility test for KPSC' (March 6). Allegations surrounding recruitment examinations raise concerns about transparency and fairness. Ensuring strict oversight and transparent procedures is essential to restore public confidence.

Kalathil Aarushi, Bengaluru

Growth vs security

The editorial, 'A reset for ease of business' (Mar 13), reiterates the need for easing FDI restrictions to boost India's growth while protecting India's interests. Attracting foreign investment can enhance manufacturing and technology transfer, but the government must balance economic cooperation with national security interests, particularly with China.

Gursimran Kaur Sethi, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

14-15 MLAs (from Odisha) have come here. They have been threatened and they have been offered various things. It is our duty to look after them. They remain firm on their decision. No one wishes to become a part of 'Operation Lotus.'

D K Shivakumar, Karnataka Deputy CM

As usual, there was a story behind the story, and that is where the truth was hidden.

Kenneth Eade

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Is IRDAI a blind watchdog?

Regulatory clarity and transparency are essential to restore trust in life insurance

VASANT G HEGDE AND LALAN MISHRA

Households keep their hard-earned money in financial assets because they trust the ecosystem of banks, insurance companies, mutual funds, depository participants and regulators such as the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI0, the Reserve Bank of India and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). They assume these markets they invest in are stringently regulated and that regulators vigilantly enforce rules to protect their interests. When trust weakens, however, the entire system becomes fragile. This is especially true of the insurance sector. Among financial products, life insurance remains one of the least willingly purchased. The reasons are many—product complexity, lack of awareness, and rampant mis-selling by agents and banks.

A comparison with the mutual fund industry is instructive. Mutual funds entered households' portfolios much later than insurance yet, today, enjoy wider acceptance. Strong SEBI regulation, better disclosure norms, caps on expenses and direct plan options have increased investor participation. Returns are transparent, risks are clearly explained, and commissions are no longer hidden in complex structures. Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has also played a key role in creating awareness through advertisements—recall the Mutual Funds Sahi Hai campaign. As a result, the industry's assets under management have increased nearly eightfold in the past twelve years.

Contrast this with insurance. According to IRDAI, insurance penetration in India is about 3.7% of GDP, compared with a global average of around 7.4%. Premiums per capita are high relative to the sum assured. While the assets managed by insurers are about Rs 74 lakh crore, the total premium collected in FY 2024-25 was Rs 11.93 lakh crore. Life insurance premiums alone account for about 90% of these assets and nearly 75% of premiums collected.

Insurance success should not be measured merely by the number of policies sold. It must be judged by persistency—the share of customers who continue policies beyond five years. Persistency ratios of around 50–60% suggest many customers exit early, often after realising the product does not match their needs. This indicates a structural problem. IRDAI's grievance data also shows a steady rise in complaints under "unfair business practices", many related to mis-selling.

The rise of bancassurance

Banks now play a major role in selling insurance. More than half of life insurance premiums in India come through banks and brokers. The share of banks in new insurance premiums has risen from 20% to 33% in the past decade, second only to individual agents whose share has fallen from 72% to 49%. Among the six largest insurers—five of which are bank-owned—more than half of new premiums came from banks.

Another striking trend is the size of policies sold. The average premium per policy sold by corporate agents is about Rs 1.17 lakh, nearly three times the Rs 42,000 average sold by individual agents. Many private banks earn over 10% of their fee-based income from distributing insurance. When insurance becomes a cash cow for banks, the pressure on employees to sell more naturally increases. In the bancassurance model, incentives and promotions are often linked to the sale of life insurance products.

A high attrition rate in private sector banks is partly due to stiff targets attached to life insurance products. To address this risk, the RBI has issued draft rules aimed at curbing mis-selling, with norms expected to take effect from July 1. The guidelines seek to prevent banks from mis-selling insurance products and discourage bundling insurance with loans. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has also urged banks to focus on their core business—mobilising deposits and giving loans.

Part of the problem lies in divided regulation. The RBI regulates banks, while the IRDAI regulates insurance companies. When banks mis-sell insurance, responsibility between the two regulators becomes blurred. Since each oversees one part of the chain, enforcement can become weak and confusing.

The government should clarify the roles of the two regulators in cases of mis-selling. Other measures are also worth considering. First-year commissions could be staggered across the policy tenure so that agents have an incentive to ensure long-term policy continuation. Mandatory disclosure of commissions—showing how much the agent earns from a policy—would improve transparency. Finally, periodic suitability audits should become compulsory. Unless IRDAI takes urgent steps to address the industry's flaws, it risks being seen as a blind watchdog or a paper tiger.

(The writers are former bankers, and currently train young bankers at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bengaluru)

Gulf gloom and...

India's remittance risk

GYANENDRA KESHRI
DH NEWS SERVICE

The ongoing West Asia conflict is emerging as a serious concern for India's economy, not only because of its impact on energy supplies but also due to the potential disruption to remittance flows from the Gulf. A decline in remittances could widen India's current account deficit and put further pressure on the rupee, which already fell to a record low of 92.46 against a dollar on Friday.

Nearly one crore Indian citizens live and work in the West Asia region. In some Gulf countries like the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait, Indian expats outnumber the local population.

Most Indian migrants in the Gulf are low-skilled and semi-skilled workers. While migration to advanced economies like the USA, the UK, Australia and Singapore has largely been driven by the quest for better living standards, the majority of Indian migrants in the Gulf use their tax-free income to support families back home through remittances.

These remittances serve not only as a vital lifeline for millions of households from Kerala to Bihar and West Bengal but also play a critical role in the economy.

Remittances sent by Indians employed overseas increased from $55.6 billion in 2010-11 to $135.4 billion in 2024-25. In the financial year that ended in March 2025, remittances accounted for nearly 3.5% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). In the first six months of the current financial year, remittances rose to $73 billion compared with $64.7 billion recorded in the corresponding period of the previous year, according to the latest RBI data.

Remittances remain a vital source of external-sector strength for the Indian economy, which has been facing a high merchandise trade deficit largely due to dependence on imports to meet energy requirements. "In most years, remittances have surpassed gross FDI inflows, underscoring their importance as a key source of external funding," noted the Economic Survey tabled in Parliament earlier this year.

The Gulf countries have historically dominated India's inward remittances. In 2024-25, the US was the top contributor with 27.7%, followed by the UAE (19.2%), the UK (10.8%) and Singapore (6.6%).

"The Indian rupee may weaken further as the proportion of GCC in India's remittances is highest, and a prolonged conflict may affect remittance inflows into India," said Devendra Pant, Chief Economist at India Ratings and Research.

"The short-term impact would be an increase in commodity prices and some supply disruption. Overall, the impact depends on how long the conflict continues," Pant added.

Anis Sajan, vice-president of Dubai-based real estate firm Danube Group, said there would not be any significant impact on remittances if normalcy returns. "The situation is challenging, but we are standing with the workers. We have given them flexibility to work from home," Sajan told *DH* in a virtual interview from Dubai.

Ajith Kolassery, Chief Executive Officer of Norka Roots, a nodal agency set up by the Kerala government for the welfare of people from the state working abroad, said people initially called the Norka Roots helpline frantically. "Now the majority are adopting a wait-and-watch approach as no one wants to risk their jobs... Many are reaching out to us seeking assistance in expediting transit visas to Saudi Arabia to get flights from there," Kolassery said.

Convener of the Indian Overseas Congress for the Middle East region, Mansoor Palloor, fears the ongoing crisis in the Gulf could push migrants to move to countries like Canada, Australia and Europe.

"It will have an impact on the Indian economy. Most people who migrate to Gulf countries go there for jobs and send remittances home. But many youngsters migrating to countries like Australia, Canada and European nations plan to settle there as their priority is ease of living," Palloor said.

The RBI's latest Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) estimates remittance flows to India could rise to $160 billion by 2029, driven by higher mobility of Indian workers. But the ongoing Iran versus Israel-US war is likely to significantly affect India's migration patterns and remittance flows.

(With inputs from ARJUN RAGHUNATH, DHNS)

IRAN VS ISRAEL-US

Feb 28: Israel and the US launch Operation Lion's Roar and Operation Epic Fury, respectively, carrying out missile strikes on Iran

Feb 28: Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei is killed

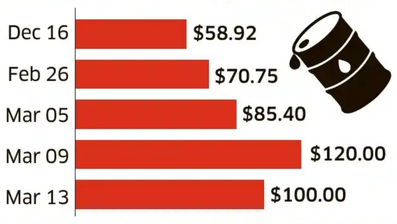
Mar 1-2: Iran fires missiles at Israel and US bases in the GCC countries

Mar 4-6: US and Israel continue strikes on Iran, US submarine torpedoes Iranian Navy ship in the Indian Ocean. Hezbollah fires rockets into northern Israel.

Mar 6-8: Israel strikes Hezbollah positions across southern Lebanon.

Mar 8-12: Iran threatens closure of Strait of Hormuz, triggering global energy concerns

Brent Crude Oil Price (per barrel)



India's exports to West Asia:

- West Asia accounts for about 17% of India's exports
- India's exports to West Asia include food products, gems and jewellery, textiles, and engineering goods
- In 2025, India exported food products worth $11.8 billion to West Asia

Conflict in West Asia: Implications for India

- West Asia is a critical supplier of **energy, fertilisers** and **industrial inputs** to India
- **In 2025,** India imported **$98.7 billion** worth of goods from West Asia, including crude oil worth $50.8 billion, LNG $9.2 billion and fertilisers $3.7 billion

West Asia's share in India's imports in 2025:

Strait of Hormuz:

- About **20% of the global oil trade** passes through the **Strait of Hormuz**
- Nearly **60%-65%** of India's crude imports from **Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates,** and **Kuwait** transit the Strait
- **Qatar** ships almost all **LNG exports** to **India** through the Strait.
- Disruption will spike crude prices, raise India's **import bill, inflation, and trade deficit.**

Diaspora and Remittance:

- Over 9.5 million Indians live and work across West Asia.
- The UAE and Saudi Arabia account for the largest concentrations of Indian workers and professionals.
- Smaller Indian communities are also present in Israel and Iran.

Inflow of Remittances from West Asia to India

- **$135.4 billion** remittances to India in **2024-25,** projected to grow to **$160 billion** by **2029**
- Nearly **38%** of India's remittances originate from GCC countries, with the **UAE being the second-largest (19.2%)** source
- Remittances finance nearly **42%** of India's merchandise trade deficit
- **The conflict may hit the flow of remittance to India**

Nearly 150,000 Indians have returned from West Asia to India since the conflict started

A crude test for India Inc's profitability

PRITI ARORA

India's very heavy reliance on energy imports has once again put it under the pump as the ongoing conflict in the Middle East underscored the fragility of global supply chains.

The Middle East channels about 30% of the world's crude oil and about 20% of liquefied natural gas (LNG). A substantial portion traverses the Strait of Hormuz, one of the maritime arteries – and chokepoints – of the world. Given that India imports about 88% of its crude oil and half of its LNG requirements, disruptions swiftly pose energy security challenges. That's because 40-50% of the country's crude and 50-60% of LNG cargoes sail through this narrow, 21-mile-wide passage.

Brent crude prices recently flamed past $100 per barrel, compared with the January average of about $67. Similarly, Asian spot LNG has more than doubled to $24-25 per million metric British thermal units (MMBtu) from nearly $10.

If the movement of oil and gas tankers normalises and supply improves, crude oil prices could average $75-80 per barrel next fiscal, with high near-term price volatility. For the first quarter of next fiscal, we are pencilling in an average of $85-90.

LNG prices are seen elevated as well, potentially averaging $13-15 next fiscal due to tighter inventories and persisting geopolitical-risk premium.

There are upside risks to our calls if the conflict prolongs and intensifies.

Rising energy bills impact India's fiscal math and corporate cost structures and will show up in the upcoming first quarter.

Downstream oil marketers and refiners face margin pressure if higher costs are not fully passed on to consumers. Manufacturing segments such as paints, tyres, especially chemicals, fertilisers, synthetic fibres and plastics, which depend heavily on hydrocarbons and derivatives, face rising input costs as well. Tyre makers are particularly vulnerable, as nearly half of their raw material expenses are tied to crude-based inputs, rendering profitability highly sensitive to sustained increases in crude oil prices.

Similarly, paint manufacturers face a significant constraint, with about 30% of their production costs stemming from crude-linked derivatives such as solvents, resins and monomers. Trade-linked sectors such as pharmaceuticals and allied industries face indirect exposure to the Middle East crisis through logistics.

Imported LNG meets about 40% of gas demand in areas such as city gas distribution for industrial and commercial users.

The fertiliser sector is particularly vulnerable because gas is the main feedstock for urea production. India imports about 23% of its fertiliser requirement, with more than 40% sourced from the Middle East last fiscal. The country also relies on the region for intermediates such as rock phosphate and phosphoric acid. Thus, prolonged high LNG prices would raise domestic production costs, potentially pushing the fertiliser subsidy bill above the budgeted Rs 1.7 lakh crore next fiscal.

For corporate India, a sustained increase in energy prices is likely to exacerbate cost pressures. Even brief disruptions could erode 40-60 basis points from India Inc's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) margin next fiscal.

India has made efforts to diversify its energy sources and suppliers, building some buffers into its system. However, prolonged geopolitical uncertainties that keep oil and gas prices elevated would permeate through corporate costs and, ultimately, the broader economy.

(The writer is the President and Business Head, Crisil Intelligence)

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Newer ways to recover metals

With e-waste rising, scientists explore greener methods to recover metals from circuit boards, writes Shradha Triveni

The last year has been a year of metals, with the entire world scrambling to get ahead in the race for precious metals. With silver, copper, and other rare metals becoming more important than ever due to solar and electric vehicles, every country is seeking alternative sources for these metals beyond mining.

The focus has also been on e-waste, the fastest-growing solid waste stream worldwide. This contains a combination of precious and rare metals, such as copper, iron, tin, lead, cadmium, palladium, and even gold and silver, in relatively pure form. Recovering these metals, however, is not easy. In India, some of this waste ends up in informal disposal sites, such as landfills, due to inadequate and unsafe recycling mechanisms.

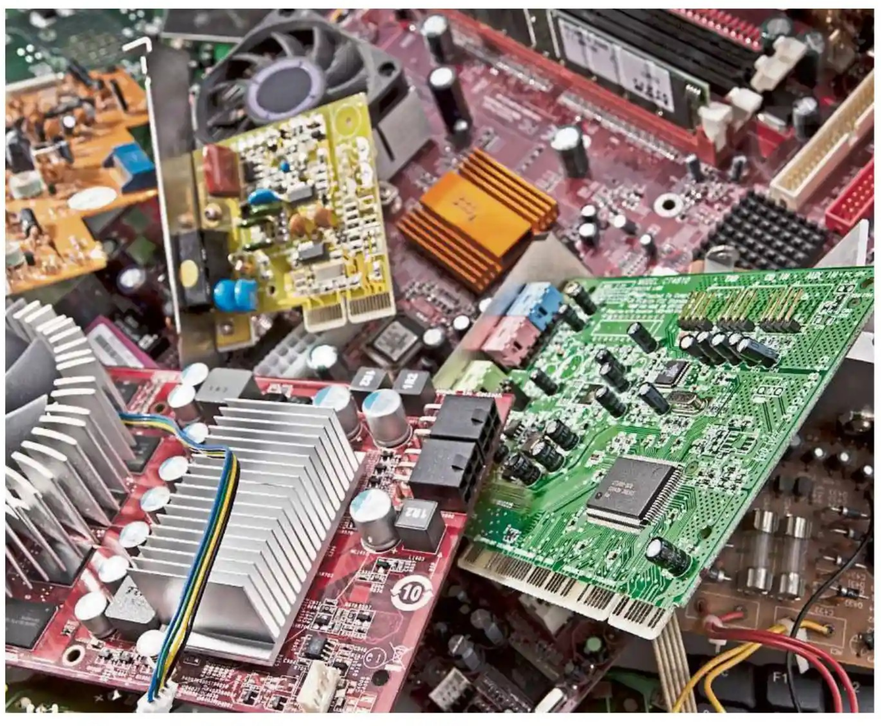
The Global E-Waste Monitor 2024 estimates that 62 million tonnes of e-waste were generated worldwide in 2022. This figure is expected to rise to 82 million tonnes by 2030. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data shows that India generated over 1.6 million tonnes of e-waste in 2022–23.

Conventional recycling methods like pyrometallurgy and hydrometallurgy rely on very high-temperature processing and strong acids to recover metals in their pure forms. These methods release harmful gases, generate hazardous chemicals and expose workers to unsafe conditions.

"India relies heavily on technologies used by Japan, South Korea, and European countries to recycle e-waste," says Sinu Kurian, a researcher from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, adding that greener, more efficient ways to do this using raw materials available within India are necessary.

Motivated to address the environmental costs of existing methods, her team at IIT Madras used a thymol-capric acid deep eutectic solvent (DES) to recover metallic copper from e-waste sources such as printed circuit boards. A DES is a mixture of two or more compounds formed through extensive hydrogen bonds to lower their melting points, resulting in the solvents staying in liquid form at room temperatures.

Sinu Kurian, the lead researcher in the study, says that thymol-capric acid DES combines thymol, derived from plant-based sources like thyme and ajwain, with capric acid, commonly found in coconut and palm kernel oils and milk fat, making the blend environmentally friendly.



In her experiment, Sinu dissolved 0.2 g of copper powder in 25mL of thymol-capric acid DES. She then added trisodium citrate to copper-dissolved DES, which separated the mixture into two layers: a reusable DES layer and an aqueous phase containing copper ions.

Sinu said that this method was tested on printed circuit boards of mobile phones. Identical results were obtained in each case. The same method was followed for iron to establish the effectiveness of green solvents in dissolving other metals.

According to Sinu, this method simplifies the steps involved in metal extraction by limiting the use of water and does not require strong solvents. She believes that once the protocol for her study is established, this method can be scalable to people and industries. At the moment, however, the method is achievable only in labs.

This raises a larger question: how then is e-waste actually recycled in India today?

From scrap to steel

Under government rules, all electronic and electrical equipment manufacturers in India must obtain an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificate, making them accountable for the safe disposal of end-of-life products.

Recyclers say that more than three-fourths of the total e-waste produced in India is estimated to be handled by the unorganised sector, largely run by local dealers, with little documented information on recovery practices.

However, a growing number of registered solid waste management companies are shifting towards e-waste processing units that extract metals in their pure form and sell them to various manufacturing companies.

Ravi Kumar Neeladri, chief executive officer of Blue-Planet E-Waste Solutions Private Limited, whose plant is near Hoskote, says that the metals extracted in the highest amounts at their factory are aluminium, copper and iron.

"After sourcing end-of-life products, we first segregate plastics from e-waste manually. Then the metallic components are melted down, or smelted, after which the impurities from the slag are removed using hydrochloric acid (HCl)," he said.

He explained that scrap plastics from segregated e-waste are shredded into small flakes. These flakes are then supplied to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), who convert them into granules.

He says iron is the most commonly found metal in e-waste, followed by stainless steel, aluminium and copper. Silver and gold are also found in minor quantities in the PCBs of most electronic equipment.

"Due to high precision technology and higher cost of extraction of precious metals, which are found in micrograms compared to other metals, which are available in kilograms, we don't extract them yet," he notes, adding that the extraction of rare earth elements faces a similar challenge.

"We use a PCB recycling machine that converts circuit boards into powders. The powdered PCBs are exported to a company in Japan where they extract copper, silver and gold," says Ishita Bansal, co-founder and COO of Plannex Recycling. She adds that iron, aluminium, and other commonly found metals are extracted at the Plannex factories and sold to manufacturing companies.

Recyclers and researchers say that India needs to invent a greener route to recover its e-waste.

Satish Sinha, Associate Director of Toxics Link, a Delhi-based policy advocacy firm that also works in the e-waste sector, notes that India's biggest challenge in managing e-waste begins at the source.

He says the major gap in E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, is the lack of an effective collection and recycling system, especially in rural areas, along with weak enforcement, limited recovery of valuable and critical metals and insufficient integration of the informal sector into the formal e-waste management framework.

(The author is a freelance journalist)

DID YOU KNOW?

When red dwarf stars block 'quality' light

Red dwarf stars are the most common type of star in the Milky Way, making up the majority of stars in the galaxy. Because many rocky exoplanets orbit these stars, scientists often consider them promising places to search for extraterrestrial life. However, new research suggests that planets around red dwarfs might struggle to support oxygen-producing life because of the light these stars emit.

Photosynthesis on Earth depends heavily on visible light, especially wavelengths that allow plants and algae to split water molecules and release oxygen. The Sun provides abundant light in this useful range. Red dwarf stars, however, emit most of their radiation at longer, redder wavelengths and much less in the higher-energy visible light that Earth plants rely on.

This difference could create a major challenge for potential plant-like organisms on planets orbiting red dwarfs. Even if such planets lie within the "habitable zone," where liquid water can exist, their stars may not provide enough of the right kind of light to drive efficient oxygen-producing photosynthesis. Without this process, complex ecosystems like those on Earth might never develop because oxygen is a key ingredient for advanced life.

Researchers studying the problem used models of stellar light spectra and biological processes to estimate how much useful energy organisms would receive on red-dwarf planets. Their results suggest that photosynthesis might still occur, but it would likely be less efficient or require different biochemical strategies than those used by plants on Earth. Alien organisms might evolve pigments that capture lower-energy light or develop alternative metabolic systems.

The findings highlight an important point for astrobiology: a planet being in a star's habitable zone does not automatically mean it can support Earth-like life. Habitability also depends on the quality of stellar light and whether it can power biological processes such as photosynthesis.

Despite the challenges, scientists do not rule out life around red dwarfs. These stars are extremely long-lived and abundant, so even if only a small fraction of their planets can support life, they could still host many living worlds. Future telescopes and observations of exoplanet atmospheres may help determine whether oxygen or other biosignatures exist on planets orbiting these stars.

-Phys.org

Cash-for-query case: SC issues notice to Mahua

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra on a plea filed by the Lokpal challenging a Delhi High Court judgment, in which it held that separate sanctions for the filing of a chargesheet and initiating prosecution were not contemplated by the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

Mahua Moitra

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notice to Moitra, the CBI, and BJP MP and complainant Nishikant Dubey on the Lokpal's plea.

The bench stayed a part of the December 2025 HC order that permitted the Lokpal to consider granting sanction to the CBI to file a chargesheet against Moitra in the cash-for-query scam.

In an interim order, the bench clarified that the Lokpal need not decide on sanction for prosecution, as directed in Paragraph 89 of the HC order.

Street food vendors freed from FSSAI licence requirement

Health Ministry eases compliance for 10 lakh vendors; reforms effective April 1

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Easing the lives of street food vendors, the Union Health Ministry on Friday approved regulatory reforms, permitting them to work without an FSSAI licence if they are registered with the municipal authorities or town vending committees.

Street food vendors registered with municipal corporations or town vending committees under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, will be considered as "deemed registered" under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

The move will benefit over 10 lakh such vendors by eliminating the requirement for multiple registrations across departments, officials said, noting that the reform would "significantly" reduce compliance burden and enable vendors to focus on their livelihoods, hygiene and business operations.

HELPING SMALL BIZ

- Vendors with municipal/town vending registration exempt from FSSAI licence
- Renewal requirement scrapped; paperwork reduced
- Turnover threshold for registration raised from Rs 12 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore
- Regulatory focus to shift towards enforcement, monitoring

The ministry also approved "perpetual validity" of FSSAI registrations and licences, reducing paperwork for food business operators.

"This will be valid for all registrations and licences. It is for the food business operators of all sizes," sources told *DH*. The reforms will come into effect from April 1.

Currently, FSSAI licences and registrations must be renewed, and the periodicity of such renewals varies between one and five years.

Under the revised framework, registrations and licences will have perpetual validity, eliminating the need for repeated renewals.

This, the food regulator claims, will substantially reduce compliance costs, paperwork and the need for repeated interaction with licensing authorities for food business operators, while improving continuity of operations. The reform would enable regulatory resources to focus more effectively towards enforcement, monitoring and capacity-building activities, the FSSAI said.

Sasikala announces party name

CHENNAI, DHNS: Two weeks after announcing her intention to launch a political party, VK Sasikala, the long-time aide of late AIADMK supremo J Jayalalithaa, on Friday declared that her outfit will be called the All India Puratchi Thalaivar Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AIPTMMK). She also said that the party's election symbol will be 'coconut grove'.

Sasikala said she was joining the AIPTMMK, which had been registered as a political party in 2016 by Madurai-based P Sakkaravarthy, and that she was taking over as its chief.

On February 24, she unveiled the party's flag, in black, white and red with images of DMK founder CN Annadurai and AIADMK leaders MG Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa embossed in the middle.

"Puratchi Thalaivar (MGR) joined the AIADMK, which was registered by one of his followers, in 1972 after he was expelled from the DMK. Today, I find myself in a similar situation as I am joining a party launched by a true follower of MGR and Jayalalithaa," Sasikala told reporters.

"I will certainly ally with other parties. I am not like others who systemically eliminate seniors from the party," she said.

Kerala: CPM-led govt to oppose women's entry to Sabarimala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Deviating from its earlier progressive stand, the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala is learnt to have decided to oppose the entry of women in the 10-50 age group to the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple.

The state will convey its stand to the Supreme Court, which is considering reviewing petitions against the 2018 order lifting the ban on the entry of women in the 10-50 age group to the temple, citing beliefs and customs.

The U-turn of the Pinarayi Vijayan government, which comes just ahead of the Kerala Assembly polls, could be interpreted as a move to please the devotees, especially since the LDF government faced much criticism for trying to enforce the 2018 Supreme Court order allowing the entry of women of all ages.

The Congress and the BJP slammed the government's about-face, asking it to apologise to religious followers and withdraw cases registered against scores of devotees who protested against it.

'Shopping mall of reliefs': SC bins public safety plea

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking wide-ranging directions to ensure public safety through the maintenance of roads, bridges, electric wiring and other infrastructure.

The court said that the petition resembled a "shopping mall" of reliefs, with demands ranging from repairing potholes to completing unfinished bridges.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, while observing that it was not commenting on the merits of the matter, said that it would be nearly impossible to issue directions that would be unmanageable unless the issues raised were specific.

It said the plea sought "sweeping directions" that would carry financial implications, adding that HCs are best placed to assess the finances of the states concerned.

The counsel argued that people across the country were losing their lives due to the negligence of authorities.

The bench, however, asked the counsel, "You want us to run the entire country?"

"Your petition is as good as a showroom or a shopping mall. Right from repairing potholes and roads to finishing unfinished structures like bridges—everything is there. You name a relief on earth, and it is included here," the SC observed.

Consignment from Pakistan found in Jammu

JAMMU, PTI: A suspicious consignment allegedly dropped by a Pakistani drone was recovered by security forces near the International Border (IB) in the outskirts of Jammu city on Friday.

Initial reports said that the consignment weighed around 1.5 kg and was lying in the border belt. The package has not been opened yet, officials said

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

ANOTHER MEDIEVAL ROMANCE?
YES! IN THIS ADVENTURE SIR HAVALOT WAGES A BATTLE FOR HIS TRUE LOVE, PRINCESS PAPAYA
THOSE NOVELS SURE SOUND BORING!
REALLY? LISTEN TO THIS... "THEN SHE COOKED HIM A VICTORY FEAST OF TURKEY LEGS, FINE SAUSAGES AND HONEY CAKES"
OK, LEMME READ THAT WHEN YOU'RE DONE!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

I'VE GOT DISCO FEVER, BABE!
HOW DO YOU LIKE MY GOLD CHAINS?
WHAT DO YOU SAY, BABE? DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?
WHAT'S YOUR SIGN, BABE? YOU A LEO?

Marvin

JUMBLE

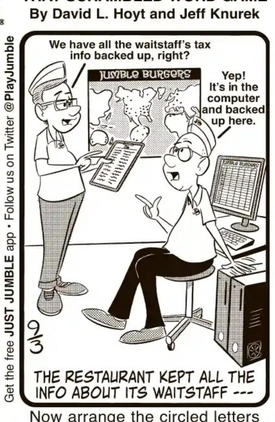
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DIVOE

SGRHU

RONCEE

SPRTOA


THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
We have all the waitstaff's tax info backed up, right?
JUMBLE BURGERS
Yep! It's in the computer and backed up here.
THE RESTAURANT KEPT ALL THE INFO ABOUT ITS WAITSTAFF ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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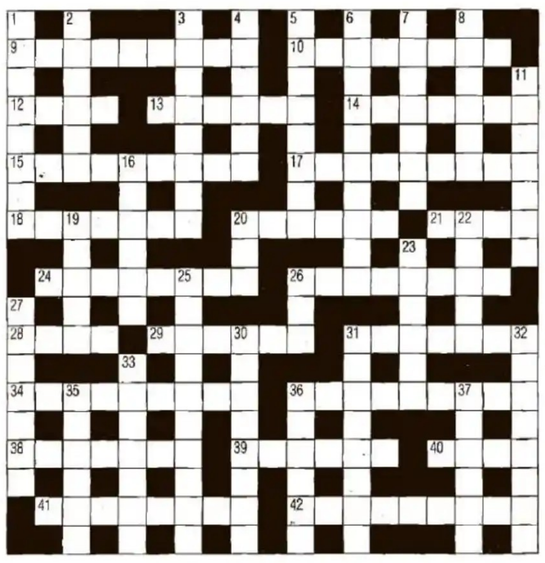
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PARTY BOUND COUSIN BLEACH
Answer: The unmarried insurance adjuster met his future wife — BY ACCIDENT

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4031



ACROSS
9 Fruit (9)
10 Docile (8)
12 Defence feature (4)
13 Hit (6)
14 Geometric shape (7)
15 Need for action (9)
17 Hormone (9)
18 Building (7)
20 Earthquake (6)
21 Lack (4)
24 Set of letters (8)
26 Inclination (8)
28 Eastern European (4)
29 Vinegar acid (6)
31 Fit of anger (7)
34 Paying fare (9)
36 Tower of London guard (9)
38 Rank of the nobility (7)
39 Feline (6)
40 Gastropod mollusc (4)
41 Notorious (8)
42 Poisonous fungus (9)

DOWN
1 Headlong rush of cattle (8)
2 Hire (6)
3 Length (8)
4 Pulchritude (6)
5 Furniture item (8)
6 Hot dried berry (10)
7 Lively (7)
8 Tooth covering (6)
11 Peculiarity (7)
16 Japanese female companion (6)
19 Lazy person (5)
20 Rubbish (3)
22 Bring upon oneself (5)
23 Spiritualist's meeting (6)
25 Board game (10)
26 Spasm (3)
27 Plug (7)
30 Herbivorous reptile (8)
31 Abstinent (8)
32 Tropical flower (8)
33 Expressionless (7)
35 Muscular (6)
36 Respiration (6)
37 Animal fat (6)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
9 Stiff, while the previous one had a nice flexible cover (9)
10 Like the melody from the film "The Ghosts" (8)
12 Run – and come to grief (4)
13 Run for office (6)
14 Go off to get some beer or don't bother (5,2)
15 Right about the real trouble with the car part (4,5)
17 Was about to be involved in (9)
18 Is annoying and one gives a Mickey Finn to (4,3)
20 I can't repair the hole in the case (6)
21 Parking in the wrong one, to start with (4)
24 Heads towards, which helps to bring about (5,3)
26 Shopkeeper who's a gossipmonger? (8)
28 In spite of the uniform (4)
29 Seemed angered by, which was all too illuminating (6)
31 Wished one hadn't put in a cherry tree? (7)
34 Kept down the work when urged to (9)
36 Happening to have noticed, on the outside, a number (9)
38 It runs fast and sounds as though it does! (7)
39 Going to the net I foozled again, on the whole (6)
40 Run "Roundhead" in the race (4)
41 Document in which there will be no cross-references (8)
42 Being sufficient for driving as far as (7,2)

DOWN
1 Make look presentable (4,4)
2 She leans out to grab one (6)
3 In order to be honest (8)
4 Stress that is a c-coin (6)
5 Getting you there faster, it lessens the shock considerably (5,3)
6 Extracting from and leaving (7,3)
7 Having supported right through, transgressed (7)
8 Escaping notice, you understand, in nun's disguise (6)
11 Apt, when the time gets close (7)
16 Went ahead and held up, also – stole from (6)
19 Mere suspicion, you find (5)
20 Music, to create atmosphere (3)
22 Dress down (5)
23 Seed by which pop raised an apple (6)
25 Winter is here in no time – it's disappointing (5,5)
26 Left again the day after (3)
27 Make a poor shot into a good one (7)
30 Restored to favour, one considered, again (8)
31 Admiring greatly, is always within call for (8)
32 Offering to serve the people (8)
33 Sure to be specific (7)
35 Had been crying, one quickly saw (6)
36 .....and I am in floods of tears, which is ironical (6)
37 Mobile rang in the middle of the speech which does infuriate (6)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12373

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, G-loss 6, Might 9, C-apt-ain 10, Steam 11, Score (20) 12, P-rise 13, E-states 15, Red 17, Ah-AB 18, Domino (effect) 19, Heron 20, Lo-it-er 22, Cell 24, Ear 25, Pirates 26, Midas 27, Mimic 28, Robin 29, Law-suit 30, CH-ill 31, Penny
DOWN: 2, Latish 3, Scarab 4, Sam (rev.) 5, Stars 6, Mission 7, Ince 8, Harden 12, Peter 13, Eagle 14, Tapir 15, Rivet 16, Dolls 18, (doch-an-)Doris 19, Helical 21, Oafish 22, Capote 23, Le-GI-on 25, Pa-NS-y 26, (the)Mill 28, Rip

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Shack 6, Oscar 9, Receipt 10, Clean 11, Eerie 12, Usurp 13, Compost 15, Cap 17, Owes 18, Stroll 19, Trite 20, Adders 22, Torn 24, SOS 25, Cabinet 26, Kapok 27, Galas 28, Gamut 29, Located 30, Seven 31, Tenet
DOWN: 2, Hollow 3, Cramps 4, Ken 5, Least 6, Operate 7, Step 8, Animal 12, Users 13, Comas 14, Mends 15, Colon 16, Plant 18, Steak 19, Treason 21, Donate 22, Tirade 23, Resume 25, Coral 26, Kale 28, Get

◆SU-DO-KU-6854◆

				5				9
	3		2				5	1
	2			9		7		
5	1			4	8			2
8			9	3			6	5
		4		8			7	
3	7				4		1	
1				7				

hard

4	9	8	1	7	2	6	3	5
7	5	3	8	9	6	4	2	1
6	2	1	3	5	4	8	9	7
9	1	7	6	2	3	5	4	8
8	3	5	7	4	1	2	6	9
2	6	4	5	8	9	1	7	3
3	8	6	2	1	7	9	5	4
1	4	2	9	3	5	7	8	6
5	7	9	4	6	8	3	1	2

SOLUTION TO 6853

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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A1 P3 R1 E1 L1 N1 T1

V4 T1 O1 E1 R1 P3 Y4 — Triple Word Score

I1 E1 C3 M3 R1 T1 U1 — Double Word Score

N1 F4 O1 O1 C3 M3 R1

RACK 1 | RACK 2 | RACK 3 | RACK 4

PAR SCORE 155-165
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

W4 I1 R1 E1 M3 A1 N1 — RACK 1 = 86
G2 O1 S1 L1 I1 N1 G2 — RACK 2 = 77
D2 I1 S1 D2 A1 I1 N1 — RACK 3 = 77
A1 I1 R1 P3 O1 R1 T1 — RACK 4 = 77
JUDD'S TOTAL 317

PAR SCORE 205-215

HITORI-3308

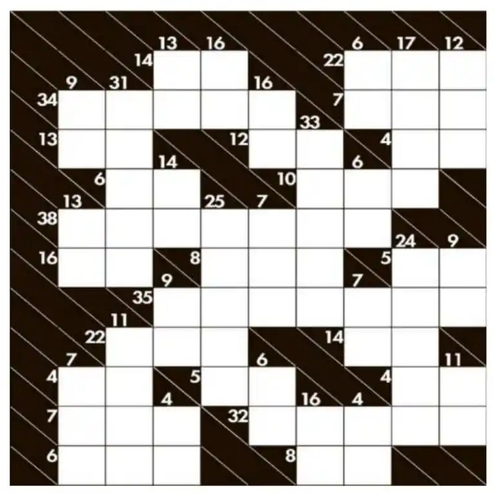
3	1	8	3	4	7	7	3
8	5	3	4	1	3	7	7
1	3	7	5	6	4	3	4
3	6	5	7	2	7	1	4
5	4	1	2	4	1	8	6
6	3	4	1	8	6	5	1
7	2	6	8	5	3	4	8
4	8	3	6	7	4	3	5

SOLUTION TO 3307

■	5	4	■	1	■	8	2
5	■	3	2	8	4	■	6
3	2	7	■	4	■	6	8
■	3	6	4	■	2	7	■
8	■	5	7	6	■	1	3
4	1	■	6	2	7	5	■
1	4	2	3	■	8	■	5
■	6	■	8	3	5	2	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3308



SOLUTION TO 3307

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3855

■	5						7	■
4	■						■	
		2	8	6		■		
			■		■			
8	2			■		5		
	6		■		3		2	
		3		9	8	■	1	
9	■			4			■	
1			2				9	■

SOLUTION TO 3854

4	2	1	5	8	7	6	9	3
9	7	6	3	2	1	5	8	4
5	8	3	4	9	6	7	2	1
8	6	7	9	3	5	1	4	2
2	9	5	7	1	4	8	3	6
3	1	4	2	6	8	9	5	7
1	5	9	6	4	3	2	7	8
7	4	8	1	5	2	3	6	9
6	3	2	8	7	9	4	1	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, KOPPAL. THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, KOPPAL

NO.RWS/Dn/KPL/MVS OM/2025-26/1478 Date: 13.03.2026

KPPP NOTIFICATION (Double Cover System)

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & sanitation Division, Koppal Invites e-Tender for Outsource Staff,Jal Niramal Staff & District & Taluka Lab Staff .The eligible bidders are requested to submit the Bid in Double Cover System through kppp portol mode through portol http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

General Information: 1) Contractor should submit the Tender Bid Documents through Online Only. 2) All Documents Should be Scanned and Upload during the period of Applying Tender through Online Only. 3) EMD Amount Should be Submitted Through Online Only 4) Two Cover Tender Called.

If any More Information Contractor should Contact this office or wide email id:eerwsskpl@gmail.com in Office Hours and Tenders will be Download from **17/03/2026** Tender Processing Fee: As Per KPPP Portol Tender Downloading Date: **17/03/2026** Time: 10:00 AM to **26/03/2026** 16:00 Hours Tender receiving Date and Time: **17/03/2026** Time: 10:00 AM to **26/03/2026** 16:00 Hours Technical Bid Opening Date and Time: **27/03/2026** Date:16:30 Hours Financial Bid Opening after approval of the technical bid from the Competent Authority **30/03/2026** or After Obtaining the Technical Bid Approval from the Competent Authority

The Contractors should produce the Original Documents within 8 days from the open of the tender. If failed such Contractor candidature will not be considered.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
R.D.W & S .Division, Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/753/KSMCA/2025-26

Kalayana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation
Main Road, Kalaburagi **(Traffic (Com) Section)**

No:KKT:CO:TRF:COM-2/ 5809 /2025-26 Dtd:13-3-2026

Tender Notification No:02/2026 (E-Procurement portal)

Bids are invited through e-portal from Individual/ Partnership firm/ Company/Corporation/ consortium/ Joint Venture for the grant of advertising rights to display advertisement on the back side of Passenger Tickets ETM (Electronic Ticket Issue Machine) thermal rolls of KKRTC for a period of one year.

1) Calendar of events Description: For submission of queries Date : 27.3.2026 **Time**: 1700hrs, Pre-Bid meeting Date : 30.3.2026 Time : 1100 hrs, Last date of Submission of Bids : Date : 13.4.2026, Time : 1700 hrs, Opening of Technical Bid Date : 15.4.2026, 1100 hrs, Opening of Financial Bid 21.4.2026 Time : 1100 hrs, 2) The financial bids of the bidders, those who have qualified in Technical bid will only be opened. 3) The RFP Documents along with terms and conditions, Eligibility Criteria and other technical details can be downloaded from the e-portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** 4) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of **Rs 200000.00**: Bidders has to pay through e-Portal by e-payment mode. 5) KKRTC reserves the right to accept or reject tender without assigning any reason thereof. 6) For more details on terms and conditions etc contact DTO, Central Office-7760992047/7760992024

Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager
KKRTC, Central office Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1169/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಗ್ಗಲೀಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ದೂರವಾಣಿ: +91 8951981991 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: kaggalipuragp@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕ.ಗ್ರಾ.ಪಂ/ಇ/ಪ್ರೋ 02/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13-03-2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಹಾಗೂ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, **ಕಗ್ಗಲೀಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವರ್ಗ-1 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of the Work	Tender Type
1	RDPR/2025-26/ WS/WORK_ INDENT25312	Construction of an Additional New Underground Drainage (UGD) Pipeline and New Chambers from Nagarajs Property to the Rajakaluve (Main Storm- Water Drain) in Ramesh Nagar Village.	CAT-I
2	RDPR/2025-26/ WS/WORK_ INDENT25315	Construction Work of a New Underground Drainage Pipeline and New Chamber from the House of Suresh (SC/ST Category) to the House of Kumar in Kanthayyanapalya Village, Bengaluru South Taluk.	CAT-II(A)
3	RDPR/2025-26/ WS/WORK_ INDENT25321	Additional Sewage Pipeline Work from Jayamma, Rajanna, Ramesh and Ashok to STP in Dinne Playa Village of Bengaluru South Taluk.	SC
4	RDPR/2025-26/ WS/WORK_ INDENT25327	Construction of a New Underground Drainage (UGD) Pipeline and New Chambers in Kanthayyanapalya Village from Gajendra House and Venkatesh & Manjunath House upto Kunnappa House, Kaggalipura Gram Panchayat Limits (SC/ST Area), Bengaluru South Taluk.	OTHERS
5	RDPR/2025-26/ WS/WORK_ INDENT25331	Construction of New Underground Drainage (UGD) Pipeline and New Chambers in the Streets from Munirajappas House on BWSSB Road to Shankar Layout in Kaggalipura 6th Block (SC/ST Colony), Kaggalipura Gram Panchayat Limits, Bengaluru South Taluk.	OTHERS
6	RDPR/2025-26/ WS/WORK_ INDENT25333	Construction of New Underground Drainage (UGD) Pipeline and New Chambers from Venkataramanappa House to the Government School in Kaggalipura 6th Block (SC/ST Colony), Bengaluru South Taluk.	ST
7	RDPR/2025-26/ WS/WORK_ INDENT25344	Construction of New Underground Drainage (UGD) Pipeline and New Chambers in Various Streets of Kaggalipura 6th Block (SC/ST Colony), Bengaluru South Taluk Specifically in Armugam, Govindappa, Lakshmamma, Satish, Manjunatha and Nandeesh House Streets.	OTHERS

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **13-03-2026 ರಿಂದ 27-03-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.** 2) ಕೆಲಸದ ಹೆಸರು / ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳು / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಕಗ್ಗಲೀಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಕಗ್ಗಲೀಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/6231/ಅಡ್ವರ್ಟೈ/2025-26

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri
(Government of Karnataka -Reg Autonomous Institution)

Phone: 08272 298220 Website: www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in

No. DME/2025-26/IND:1838/CALL-2 Date: 12.03.2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Under signed invites e-tender notification in two Bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** GOK, for the SUPPLY OF DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY EQUIPMENTS TO, DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY KoIMS teaching Hospital Madikeri. Last date for upload is 27-03-2026 for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Director & Dean,
KoIMS, Madikeri

Karnataka State Open University
Mukthagangothri, Mysuru, Karnataka - 570006

No.KSOU/IT/CW-03/Campus Wi-Fi file-44/2020-21 Date: 10.03.2026

Short Term Re-Tender Notification

Apropos approval of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru invites short term e-Tender as per **"KTPP ACT 2000"** in two cover system(Technical bid & Financial bid) for Annual Maintenance for Contract of Campus Networking at KSOU, Mysuru.

Interested eligible bidders may upload the tender by downloading the information in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal. For more information contact Registrar, KSOU, Mysuru during office hours (Phone: 0821-2512471).

(Tender Number: KSOU/2025-26/SE0015/CALL-2)

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/Mysore/Shirdi Sai/1830/2025-26

District Urban Development Cell, Ballari

No: DUDCB/Tech/MUN-4/Building/02/2025-26
Date:11.03.2026

"TENDER NOTIFICATION"

The Executive Engineer, DUDC, Ballari Invites tenders in two cover system using standard tender documents from Eligible contractors for the works detailed as below.

Name of the Works & Indent No: Development of Maratha samaja Burial ground and Lakshmipura survey no 70 Burial ground in sandur TMC Limits DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT16023/CALL-7.**Estimate Cost(Rs in Lakhs): 61.63. Amount put to tender(Rs in Lakhs): 52.18 EMD (in.Rs): 1,04,500.00**

Last date & time for tender queries / clarifications: **18.03.2026 at 11.00 Hrs.** Last date and time for receipt of tender technical bids: **23.03.2026 at 16.30 Hrs.** Date & time for opening of (technical bids): **24.03.2026 at 17.00 hrs.** Auto extension of tender schedule: **02 days**

Interested Contractors to participate in this tender, Visit the KPP Portal for more details

Sd/- Project Director,
District Urban Development cell Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/1139/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ದಿಮೆ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರ ಕಚೇರಿ,
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ ನಾಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ರೋಡಲಬಂಡಾ-584127
ತಾ: ಲಿಂಗಸುಗೂರು ಜಿ: ರಾಯಚೂರು. email:kbjnlnlbc4@gmail.com

ಸಂ.ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ/ನಾಎದಂಕಾ/ವಿ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/25-26/1805 ದಿನಾಂಕ:-09.03.2026
ಸಂ.ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ/ನಾಎದಂಕಾ/ವಿ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/25-26/1811(3ನೇಕರೆ) ದಿನಾಂಕ:-11.03.2026
ಸಂ.ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ/ನಾಎದಂಕಾ/ವಿ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/25-26/1812 ದಿನಾಂಕ:-11.03.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ನುರಿತ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರಿಂದ (Eligible consultancy services providers) ಒಟ್ಟು (1)ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಒಟ್ಟು (2)AME ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (Single cover system) & ಸರಕು ಖರೀದಿ ಒಟ್ಟು (1)ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **ದಿನಾಂಕ 13.03.2026 ರಿಂದ 24.03.2026ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕುಮೆಂಟಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು **ದಿ.25.03.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರಿಂಗ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕೆಳ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು,
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ನಾಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ರೋಡಲಬಂಡಾ.

GADAG-BETAGERI CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
State: Karnatak District: Gadag
Phone:-08372-278907 Email:-ka.gadag.betageri.cmc@gmail.com

Ref:Gbcmc/health/ /2025-26 Date: 12-03-2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(Throgh KPPP Portal)

THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, GADAG BETAGERI CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, invites **rates quotations of Non SR Items for the Preparation of slaughterhouse DPR Estimates** for the purpose of Construction and Implementation of Slaughter House in GADAG BETAGERI CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL Limit as per Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Govt. of India guidelines. Interested Suppliers / Firms may submit rate quotation electronically through platform at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

The details of specifications are enclosed in below mentioned indent number as follow:

Tender Indent No:	DMA/2025-26/IND6068
Last date of submission of Proposal (online)	21-03-2026 17:30:00
Opening of Tenders	23-03-2026 17:00:00

Sd/- COMMISSIONER
GADAG BETAGERI
CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
Gadag, Karnataka

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Bagalkote Town Development Authority,
Division No: 02, Bagalkote-587102.
Phone No.: 08354-297054 E-mail: eebtda2@gmail.com

Tender Notification No:EE/BTDA/Dn.02/PB-01/Tender No:10 / 2025-26/3584 Date : 13.03.2026.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 10
(Through karnataka public Procurement Portal only)

As per the tender procedure of KTPP Act, tenders are invited by the under signed for various works from registered eligible contractors for various works Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal ranging from **Rs. 11.50 Lakhs to Rs. 143.21 Lakhs**

The intending bidders for work details may login to Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for detailed notification and submission of the tender. The tenders can be submitted till **25.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM.** Technical bids will be opened on **27.03.2026 at 11.00 AM** (if possible) and financial bids will be opened on **30.03.2026 at 11.00 AM** (if possible). Any other details can be obtained from this office in person or over telephone number **08354-297054**

Note : Please note henceforth, any changes in calendar of events Corrigendum/ Addendum will be published in karnataka public Procurement Portal only and will not published in Newspaper.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
BTDA, Division. No: 02, Bagalkote.

DIPR/BAGALKOT/652/2025-26/DESHPANDEPUBLICTY

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 10 GRC 2026 Date:06.02.2026

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon report of Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, and after due investigation of the complaint of depositors, it has come to the notice of the Government that Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd is involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and hereby failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Special Officer and Competent Authority IMA and other KPID Cases and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches the movable properties as specified in the Annexure-1 to this order believed to have been acquired by the Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishment, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishment is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid movable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forth with vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department
(Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

Annexure-1

M/s Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd., "Bank Account Details"

Sl. No	Account holder name	Bank and branch details	Account Number	Balance available (in Rs.)	Remarks
1	M/s Spice India	South Indian Bank, Gudalur branch IFSC:SIBL0000754	0754073000000243	1443933.1	The GST registration of the said company i.e M/S Spice India is in the name of Durairaj.S, who is the director of the said Finanacial Establishment; M/s Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd.
2	Spice India Company	State Bank of India, Gundlupet branch IFSC: SBIN0040063	38709726708	1144102.26	The GST registration of the said company i.e Spice India Company is in the name of Durairaj.S, who is the director of the said Finanacial Establishment; M/s Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd.
3	M/s Spice cart	HDFC Bank, Mogappair West branch IFSC: HDFC0001765	50200048722130	31731.3	The GST registration of the said company i.e M/S Spice Cart is in the name of Durairaj.S, who is the director of the said Finanacial Establishment; M/s Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd.
4	Durairaj S	YES bank, T Nagar, Chennai branch IFSC: YESB0000418	014851100007282	16500.89	M/s Durairaj S is the Director of the said Financial Establishment M/s Akash Sruti Spice India Private Ltd.
			Total amount	₹ 26,36,267.55	

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department
(Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/6254/2025-26

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105.
Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID: kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/AE-3/RAICHUR/UGD-SCP/1689/2025-26 Date:13.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (2nd Call)

(1) Detail of Work: **"Providing UGD System to ward No.19 of Raichur city under SCP / TSP Grants of Raichur city for the year 2025-26 (LUMPSUM)(No Variation)".** (Work Indent No:KUWSDB/2025-26/WT/WORK_INDENT471/Call-2) **(2)** Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 205.15 Lakhs (Excluding GST) (3)** Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors. **(4)** Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount : **Rs. 3,08,000/-(5)** Period of Completion: **04 (Four) Months. (6)** Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **16.03.2026 after 17:10 hours (7)** Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **23.03.2026 at 11:30 hours. (8)** Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **02.04.2026 up to 17:30 hours (**9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: **04.04.2026 after 11:00 hours. (10)** Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone: 08472-220817 E-mail ID: **kwbceklb14@gmail.com (11)** Address of E-portal:**www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board,
Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi
DIPR/DD-C.P/6267/KSMCA/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division,
Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: EE/SJN/E-PROC/26/2025-26 Date: 13-03-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover Tender) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, BCCC, Bengaluru for the Works mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BCCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC Service for the Work of Improvements and Construction of Roads, Drains and Footpaths at Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency **(Package-01)** for the year 2025-26 **(Comprising of 05 Works of Govt. Anexure-1 Sl.No. 04, 16, 20, 21 and 22). Estimated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 1050.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
2	Providing PMC Service for the Work of Improvements and Construction of Roads, Drains and Footpaths at Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency **(Package-02)** for the year 2025-26 **(Comprising of 05 Works of Govt. Anexure-1 Sl.No. 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15). Estimated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 1000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
3	Providing PMC Service for the Work of Improvements and Construction of Roads, Drains and Footpaths at Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency **(Package-03)** for the year 2025-26 **(Comprising of 03 Works of Govt. Anexure-1) Estimated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 950.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
4	Providing PMC Service for the Work of Improvements and Construction of Roads, Drains and Footpaths at Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency **(Package-04)** for the year 2025-26 **(Comprising of 03 Works of Govt. Anexure-1) Estimated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 1000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
5	Providing PMC Service for the Work of Improvements and Construction of Roads, Drains and Footpaths at Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency **(Package-05)** for the year 2025-26 **(Comprising of 05 Works of Govt. Anexure-1) Estimated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 1000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Bid Documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 16-03-2026. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **18-03-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Zone-2, BCCC, Annex-3, 4th Floor, GBA Office Compound, N.R. Square, Bengaluru. 3)** Tenders must be Submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hours on 23-03-2026. 4)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara, BCCC on 24-03-2026 at 16.30 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, BCCC.

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No Endgame : Trump says Washington will escort ships in Strait of Hormuz 'if needed'

US hits Iran's pro-govt rally as war threatens global economy

DUBAI, AP

US President Donald Trump posted a new threat to Iran's leaders Friday on his Truth Social website, saying: "They've been killing innocent people all over the world for 47 years, and now I, as the 47th President of the United States of America, am killing them," Trump wrote.

"What a great honour it is to do so!"

A large explosion struck Iran's capital in an area filled with demonstrators for the annual Quds Day event in support of the Palestinians, Iranian state television reported.

Thousands of people took to the streets in Tehran on Friday, chanting "death to Israel" and "death to America."

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said more than 15,000 enemy targets have been struck.

US refuelling jet crashes

All six crew members were killed when a US military KC-135 refuelling aircraft crashed in western Iraq, the American military said.

Concerns are growing that the war's stranglehold on Gulf oil exports is destabilizing the global economy. Brent crude oil, the international standard, remained over USD 100 per barrel as Iran kept its stranglehold on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

Regarding the strait, Hegseth told reporters Friday "we're dealing with it and don't need to worry about it."

Trump again suggests the US is holding off from escorting ships through Strait of Hormuz

Trump, in an interview on Fox News Radio that aired Friday, said that when it comes to the US Navy escorting ships through the shipping lane, "We would do it if we need to."

"Hopefully things are going to go very well," Trump said.

Hegseth, on Gulf oil supply, says 'we're dealing with it and don't need to worry about it' The defence secretary told reporters that Iran is "exercising sheer desperation" in the Strait of Hormuz, which the Iran war has closed, blocking a significant portion of the world's oil.

"And as the world is seeing, they are exercising sheer desperation in the Straits of Hormuz, something we're dealing with. We have been dealing with it and don't need to worry about it. We're on plan to defeat, destroy, disable all of their meaningful military capabilities at a pace the world has never seen before."

Black smoke rises after an airstrike as Iranians take part in the Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day rally, a commemoration in support of the Palestinian people on the last Friday of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, in Tehran on Friday. AFP

ANTONIO GUTERRES
UN Secretary-General

"My strong appeal to those parties, to Hezbollah and to Israel, is for a ceasefire to stop the war.

Tehran defiant, US vows even heavier bombing

President Donald Trump said in an interview aired Friday that American forces would strike Iranian targets "very hard" in the coming days, signaling an intensification of the US-Israeli campaign as the war in the Middle East approaches its third week, reports AFP. Washington and its ally launched the offensive on February 28 with strikes that killed Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei, triggering a widening regional war that has rattled global energy markets and drawn missile and drone attacks across the Gulf.

"We're going to be hitting them very hard over the next week," Trump told Fox News Radio, adding that he believed Iran's leadership could eventually be toppled by its own people.

'Putin might be helping Iran'

US President Donald Trump said Russian President Vladimir Putin might be helping Iran. His comments come after US intelligence indicated Russia has provided Iran with information that could help Tehran strike American warships, aircraft and other assets in the region.

Trump spoke with Putin earlier this week. "I think he might be helping them a little bit, yeah, I guess," Trump said in an interview with Fox News that will air in full later Friday. "And he probably thinks we're helping Kyiv, right," he said.

Iran about to surrender: US President to G7 leaders

WASHINGTON, PTI: US President Donald Trump has told G7 leaders that Iran is "about to surrender," claiming success in Operation Epic Fury, a media report said on Friday.

Trump made the claim on Wednesday during a virtual meeting of the G7 leaders amid growing concerns about the economic fallout of the war with Iran, Axios reported.

"I got rid of a cancer that was threatening us all," Trump told the leaders, who urged the US President to end the war quickly.

During the call, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron urged Trump not to allow Russia to exploit the war or receive sanctions relief, the report said, citing two officials. Despite the concerns voiced by the European leaders, the US on Thursday announced a temporary authorisation to other countries to purchase Russian oil currently stranded at sea.

'Mojtaba Khamenei hurt, disfigured'

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Friday that the US "is decimating the radical Iranian regime's military" and that the Islamic Republic's new supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei was injured and "likely disfigured."

"Desperate and hiding, they've gone underground, cowering," Hegseth said at a briefing at the Pentagon.

"That's what rats do. We know the new so-called not-so-Supreme leader is wounded and likely disfigured," he said.

Iran Guards vow 'stronger' response if new protests erupt

▸ Iran's Revolutionary Guards, the ideological arm of the country's military, warned on Friday that any new protests against the authorities would be met with a stronger response than in January, when several thousand people were killed, reports AFP from Tehran. "The evil enemy, failing to achieve its field battle goals, is once again pursuing instillation of fear and street riots," the Guards said.

$10 mn for info on top Iran leaders

▸ The US State Department offered a $10 million reward on Friday for information about Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei and other top officials, reports AFP Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni and Minister of Intelligence and Security Esmail Khatib were among the 10 individuals on the State Department list.

China to provide $200k aid

▸ China on Friday said it will provide USD 200,000 in emergency humanitarian assistance to the students killed in an airstrike on an elementary school in Iran in the ongoing joint US-Israel attacks on the country, reports PTI from Beijing. China expresses deep condolences regarding the deaths of students in the recent attack on an Iranian elementary school, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said.

Japan ready to join Trump's 'Golden Dome'

TOKYO, AFP: Japanese premier Sanae Takaichi is expected to announce Tokyo's participation in the "Golden Dome" US missile defence system when she meets President Donald Trump next week, a report said Friday.

Billed as a next-generation missile defence shield, the Golden Dome for America "will progressively protect our nation from aerial attacks from any foe," including through space-based interceptors and sensors, Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth said last year.

Citing several unnamed government sources, Japan's Yomiuri daily said Takaichi is expected to discuss the initiative with Trump during their planned March 19 meeting in Washington, and convey to him Japan's intention to join.

The aim is for the allies to jointly develop interceptors and a satellite network as a counterforce to hypersonic glide vehicles (HGV) pursued by China and Russia, the newspaper said.

The HGVs are said to be capable of flying a t a speed of at least Mach 5.

By participating in the Golden Dome initiative, Japan wants to boost its own self-defence capabilities.

Afghanistan accuses Pak of targeting civilians

KABUL, AP

Afghanistan's Taliban government accused Pakistan's military Friday of targeting homes in overnight airstrikes in Kabul and other areas of the country, saying at least six civilians were killed and more than a dozen injured, as fighting between the neighbours entered its third week.

Afghan government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on X that Pakistani aircraft also struck fuel depots belonging to the private airline Kam Air near the airport in Kandahar in southern Afghanistan. "This company supplies fuel to civilian airlines as well as to United Nations aircraft," he said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's state-run television reported that the country's armed forces carried out "successful airstrikes inside Afghanistan" as part of the ongoing operation, targeting what it said were four alleged militant hideouts and their support infrastructure in Afghanistan.

The developments come amid a dramatic increase in tensions between the two countries which Pakistan has referred to as "open war." They are adding to concerns about the stability in the region as the US-Israeli war against Iran continues with no end in sight, generating great uncertainty.

The dispute is rooted in Pakistan's belief that Afghanistan's Taliban government is harbouring militant groups that stage attacks against it and also of allying with its archrival India.

The Taliban deny harbouring the militant groups.

An injured Afghan girl stands near damaged houses at the site of an overnight Pakistan airstrike, at a residential area on the outskirts of Kabul on Friday. AFP

European allies riled as US loosens Russia oil sanctions

Zelenskyy warns it will fund Moscow's war machine

PARIS/ANDOYA, NORWAY/ MOSCOW, REUTERS

Ukraine and its European allies hit out on Friday at a US temporary waiver to allow countries to buy sanctioned Russian oil and petroleum products stranded at sea, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warning it would fund Moscow's war machine.

The US issued the waiver in a bid to calm energy markets roiled by the Iran war, but it risks complicating Western efforts to deprive Russia of revenue for the war in Ukraine, with transatlantic ties already under severe strain.

Oil prices eased on Friday after the US waiver announcement, which, according to Russia's presidential envoy Kirill Dmitriev, would affect 100 million barrels of Russian crude, equal to almost a day's worth of global output.

France's President Emmanuel Macron (R) welcomes Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy before a meeting at The Elysee Presidential Palace in Paris on Friday. AFP

Standing alongside French President Emmanuel Macron at a press conference later in Paris, Zelenskyy said Russia would use the money for weapons, including drones. "I believe that lifting the sanctions will, in any case, strengthen Russia's position. It is spending the money it earns from energy sales on weapons, and all of this is then being used against us," he said.

"Just this easing (of sanctions) by America could provide Russia with around $10 billion for the war. This certainly does not help peace," he said.

Macron stressed the limited and temporary nature of the 30-day US waiver. He added that there was no justification to lift sanctions on Russia and that if Moscow thought the war in Iran would give it respite, then it was mistaken. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said any move to ease Russia sanctions was wrong, suggesting Europe had been blindsided, while his Economy Minister Katherina Reiche said the decision was probably driven by U.S. domestic pressure.

"Six members of the G7 expressed a very clear opinion that this was not the right signal. We then learned this morning that the American government has apparently decided otherwise," Merz said.

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100
No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/ 3054 MDR/4059CMIDP/2025-26/3772 Date: 10.03.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-3

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents
(Total: 2 Works)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **23-03-2026 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **24-03-2026 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **25-03-2026 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **26-03-2026 @ 16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1206/25-26 dt. 13.03.2026

US President says US-Cuba deal could be done easily: White House

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

Donald Trump has said the US is talking to Cuba, its leaders should agree to a deal and that could easily be done, a White House official said on Friday, reiterating the US president's previous remarks after Havana confirmed that negotiations were under way.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said earlier that his government had opened talks with Washington, as an oil blockade imposed by Trump pushes the Communist-run nation deeper into economic crisis. "As the President stated, we are talking to Cuba, whose leaders should make a deal, which he believes 'would be very easily made'," the White House official said, on condition of anonymity. Diaz-Canel said in a video aired on state television that negotiations "have been aimed at finding solutions through dialogue to the bilateral differences we have between the two nations."

Since the US captured Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in January, removing Cuba's most important foreign benefactor, Trump has cut off Venezuelan oil shipments to Cuba and threatened to slap tariffs on any country that sells oil to Cuba. On Monday, Trump said Cuba may be subject to a "friendly takeover," then added, "it may not be a friendly takeover."

The Caribbean nation's citizens, exhausted by years of economic crisis and shortages, now live the majority of their days without electricity, strictly rationed fuel and shortages of medicine. "Cuba is a failing nation whose rulers have had a major setback with the loss of support from Venezuela and with Mexico ceasing to send them oil," the White House official said.

Trump pushes voting bill ahead of midterms

WASHINGTON, AFP: US President Donald Trump is pressing Republicans to pass a sweeping overhaul of voting rules that critics say is less about election security than trying to block millions of people from casting ballots and avoid defeat in the midterms.

Trump's Republicans in the House of Representatives have already passed a version of the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) America Act, but it faces steep obstacles in the Senate, where the party lacks the votes.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney (L), Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere(C) and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz(R) talk after a military exercise during the Nato Cold Response drills near Bardufoss, in Arctic Norway, on Friday. REUTERS

Finland doesn't intend to host nuclear arms in peacetime: Prez

▸ Nato member Finland does not intend to host nuclear weapons on its soil in peacetime, President Alexander Stubb said on Friday, aligning with policies in neighbouring Nordic countries, reports Reuters from Helsinki.

Alexander Stubb.

The president made his comments after Finland's government last week unveiled plans to lift a longstanding ban on nuclear arms on its territory, drawing criticism from neighbouring Russia as well as Finnish opposition parties.

"Finland does not need nuclear weapons in peacetime. This is about nuclear deterrence — a deterrent to ensure they would never have to be used," Stubb told reporters in Helsinki on Friday.

The Kremlin last week said it would respond if Finland placed nuclear weapons on its territory and that such a move would make the Nordic country more vulnerable.

"This is a statement that leads to an escalation of tensions on the European continent," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters at the time.

The opposition Social Democratic Party, which holds a lead in opinion polls ahead of an election for parliament next year, has said Finland should make clear it would not want nuclear arms on its territory during peacetime.

Mexico's Security Minister Omar Garcia Harfuch, whose popularity has surged after cartel leader El Mencho's death, can now be found in markets and stores as Batman, or sometimes even shirtless. REUTERS

Pink Floyd guitar sells for $14.6 mn

▸ A guitar used by Pink Floyd's David Gilmour on some of the British progressive rock band's best-loved albums has sold for a record $14.6 million, auction house Christie's said, reports AFP from New York.

The price of the Fender Stratocaster nicknamed "Black Strat" far surpassed that of the previous record holder, a guitar owned by Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain that sold for $6 million in 2020.

Gilmour played Black Strat on every Pink Floyd album between 1970 and 1983, including "Dark Side of the Moon," "Wish You Were Here," "Animals" and "The Wall."

Christie's did not provide the name of the buyer, who prevailed after 21 minutes of bidding.

The auction Thursday in New York featured rock memorabilia from the collection of Jim Irsay, the former owner of the Indianapolis Colts NFL team, who died in 2025.

Other guitars sold at the auction included a custom-made instrument that belonged to Jerry Garcia, co-founder of psychedelic rockers the Grateful Dead, which sold for $11.6 million, Christie's said.

Russia summons UK, France envoys

▸ Russia's Foreign Ministry on Friday said it had summoned the British and French envoys to protest the use of Storm-shadow/Scalp cruise missiles in the Ukrainian attack on the western city of Bryansk on Tuesday that killed and injured several civilians, reports PTI from Moscow.

"On March 13, the British Ambassador to Moscow, Nigel Casey, and the French Ambassador to Moscow, Nicolas de Riviere, were summoned to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs," the ministry said.

"They were presented with a strong protest regarding the March 10 attack on Bryansk by the Ukrainian Armed Forces using cruise missiles produced by the joint French-British concern MBDA," it added.

Supporters of incumbent President of the Republic of Congo and presidential candidate Denis Sassou Nguesso, parade during a campaign rally in Brazzaville on Friday ahead of Congo's presidential election scheduled for March 15, 2026. AFP

India's neighbours turn to New Delhi to help ease fuel shortages

Experts call it an opportunity to build goodwill across the region

BLOOMBERG

India's neighbours are seeking additional fuel from New Delhi as the war in West Asia curtails access to energy supplies from the Persian Gulf, giving Asia's third-largest economy an opportunity to build goodwill across the region.

India is a major supplier of refined petroleum products to neighboring countries. Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said New Delhi is reviewing requests for additional fuel supplies from several nations, including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Maldives. "These are being examined taking into account our own energy requirements and availability," he said.

Bangladesh's government, in office for only a few weeks, is facing the prospect of acute fuel shortages if the crisis persists and has asked India to supply additional diesel beyond the 180,000 tons it receives annually under an existing contract.

Nepal has asked Indian Oil Corporation to increase its monthly supply of liquefied petroleum gas. The Himalayan nation requested an additional 3,000 tons of LPG, but was told that only the contracted volumes would be delivered for now, said Manoj Kumar Thakur, Deputy Director of Nepal Oil Corporation. Nepal currently receives about 48,000 tons of LPG a month from IOC under its existing agreement, he said.

South Asian nations are among the most-vulnerable to energy import disruptions. The effective

closure of the Strait of Hormuz has left governments and companies across the region grappling with limited stockpiles and few alternative supply routes.

While India has yet to approve the additional fuel requests, its position as the world's fourth-largest refiner gives it room to respond to the crisis in a way that deepens regional ties and reinforces its standing as a dependable partner in South Asia.

"I am sure it will get India goodwill as all countries are struggling," said Ashok Malik, a New Delhi-based partner at The Asia Group, a business consulting firm. As the largest country in the region, India has stepped in to help meet fuel demand in the past, he said.

Nepal, wedged between India and China, relies entirely on India for its fuel supplies. Panic buying in the nation has led households to stockpile cooking gas cylinders, prompting authorities to curb distribution, Thakur said. "The regular LPG cylinder is 14.2 kg, and from today, we have decided to reduce it to 7.1 kg," he said.

Bangladesh, which imports more than 80% of its energy from West Asia, imposed austerity measures last week, with the newly-elected government shutting fertiliser plants and even curbing decorative lighting to conserve power. The push for additional supplies comes as New Delhi and Dhaka begin to mend previously strained relations.

"We have requested them to increase the oil supply slightly considering the crunch time," said Bangladesh Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood after meeting the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka on Wednesday.

While India's energy ties with its neighbours are robust, it may not be able to resolve all of their supply challenges, Malik cautioned. Countries are also exploring alternative options.

Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath held an "emergency meeting" on Friday with Russia's ambassador in Colombo to discuss oil purchases under a temporary US sanctions waiver, according to a ministry statement.

Markets in freefall for 3rd day on geopolitical worries, boiling crude

Sensex sinks 1,470 points, while Nifty tumbles 488 points

MUMBAI, PTI

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty wilted under selling pressure for the third straight day on Friday as rising crude prices raised concerns over inflationary pressures and global economic stability amid the widening conflict in West Asia.

Intense selling in global markets, unabated foreign fund outflows and continuing weakness in the rupee also dented investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,579.82 points, or 2%, to 74,454.60 during intra-day trade. The benchmark finally settled at 74,563.92, down 1,470.50 points, or 1.93%.

A total of 3,348 stocks declined, while 941 advanced and 132 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty tanked 488.05 points, or 2.06%, to end at 23,151.10.

The sharp correction has largely been driven by the surge in crude oil prices and rising macroeconomic concerns for energy-importing economies like India, Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms slumped by Rs 10,24,181.74 crore to Rs 4,29,82,252.27 crore ($4.65 trillion) on Friday.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark tanked 4,354.98 points or 5.51%, and the Nifty dropped 1,299.35 points or 5.31%.

Since February 27, the 30-share BSE Sensex has nosedived 6,723.27 points, or 8.27%. During this time, the market valuation of BSE-listed companies eroded by Rs 33,68,419 crore, to Rs 4,29,82,252.27 crore ($4.65 trillion).

"Sentiment remained fragile amid escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which have pushed crude oil prices close to the $100 per barrel mark and raised concerns over inflationary pressures and global economic stability. The situation has also triggered persistent FII outflows and weakness in the rupee, which slipped to record lows during the session, further weighing on market sentiment," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

From the Sensex constituents, Larsen & Toubro plunged the most by 7.52%, followed by Tata Steel, SBI, Bharat Electronics, Maruti, and UltraTech Cement. In contrast, Hindustan Unilever and Bharti Airtel were the gainers.

The BSE midcap select index tanked 2.87%, and the smallcap select index dropped 2.48%.

"Metals and auto stocks were among the worst hit, as supply constraints and higher input costs are expected to hit business and profitability," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Among sectoral indices, Metal dropped the most by 4.83%, followed by Industrials (4.15%), Commodities (4.01%), PSU Bank (3.73%), Auto (3.27%), MidSmall Private Banks Quality (3.13%), Capital Goods (2.99%), and Consumer Discretionary (2.69%).

In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended lower. Markets in Europe were quoting in negative territory.

Silver sinks 2% to Rs 2.62 L/kg in futures trade amid inflation worries

NEW DELHI, PTI: Silver price plunged by Rs 5,354 to Rs 2.62 lakh per kg in the futures trade on Friday, as rising crude oil prices and persistent inflationary concerns weighed on investor sentiment.

On the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX), the white metal for May delivery slumped by Rs 5,354, or 2% to Rs 2,62,608 per kg in a business turnover of 5,900 lots. Analysts said silver prices came under pressure amid a strong US dollar and volatility in the global commodities market.

Silver prices declined as rising crude prices and strong inflation concerns in the United States overshadowed its safe-haven appeal, Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

In international market, silver futures on the Comex for the May contract slipped $2.21, or nearly 3%, to $82.89 per ounce.

The US market ended sharply lower on Thursday. The Nasdaq Composite tanked 1.78%, Dow Jones Industrial Average tumbled 1.56%, and S&P 500 dived 1.52%.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 7,049.87 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, bought stocks worth Rs 7,449.77 crore.

On Thursday, the Sensex tanked 829.29 points, or 1.08%, to settle at 76,034.42. Similarly, the Nifty fell by 227.70 points, or 0.95%, to close at 23,639.15.

Air freight rates soar as conflict blocks trade routes

REUTERS

Air freight rates have risen by as much as 70% on some routes since the start of the US-Israeli war on Iran, data shows, as the conflict limits flights, blocks some ocean shipments and pushes up jet fuel costs.

Rates on routes between South Asia and Europe have been the most-affected by West Asian airspace closures and security issues, experts said, after the conflict has stranded more than 100 container ships in the area around the Strait of Hormuz.

Products like inexpensive generic medicines from India destined for the EU, Africa and the Gulf countries typically move on container ships through the strait, said pharmaceutical supply chain expert Prashant Yadav.

"The main shift I've heard about involves companies moving generic medicines from ocean freight to air cargo," said Yadav, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The shift to air cargo is significant because air freight handles about one-third of global trade by value, making rate spikes a potential inflationary pressure on goods ranging from fresh food to pharmaceuticals and electronics.

"Customers are shifting freight from ocean to air, however it is extremely expensive — typically 5x to 10x higher — and those costs are climbing as capacity tightens," said Steve Blough, Chief Supply Chain Strategist at logistics software firm Infios. "More often, shippers are moving a limited quantity by air to bridge a gap."

The jet fuel price has doubled since the start of the conflict, and Danish container shipping giant Maersk said this week that its own air cargo service is now applying fuel surcharges and war risk levies.

The airspace closures have also cut cargo capacity in freighters and passenger planes, as airlines take longer routes to avoid the conflict zone, further pressuring rates.

Ronald Lam, the CEO of Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways, said many of its freighter flights to Europe normally stop in Dubai to refuel and pick up more cargo.

Dubai and Doha are normally among the world's busiest air cargo hubs, but operations at those airports have been severely limited by the West Asia conflict.

IndiGo to levy fuel charge for flights

NEW DELHI, PTI: IndiGo will start levying fuel charges ranging from Rs 425 to Rs 2,300 on domestic and international flight tickets from March 14, amid the steep surge in jet fuel prices due to the ongoing war between the United States, Israel and Iran.

The move will increase airfares across routes. For domestic flights and those within the Indian subcontinent, the fuel charge will be Rs 425, while it will be Rs 900 for West Asia services, the airline said in a statement on Friday.

The fuel charge will be Rs 1,800 for Southeast Asia and China, Africa and West Asia flights, and Rs 2,300 for Europe flights.

TILE PRICES MAY RISE

West Asia crisis: Propane shortage forces closure of over 90 tile factories in Morbi

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The conflict in West Asia has disrupted fuel supply to tile manufacturing units in Gujarat's Morbi, forcing shutdowns. An estimated 90-95 units out of 725 tile factories have shut down amid shortage of propane and potential cessation of Gujarat Gas supply after March 15. Fuel switching offers limited short-term flexibility as controlled shutdown/restart takes 2-3 days, and kiln modifications for alternatives such as RLNG could take at least a month.

With gas accounting for 20-25% of production costs, organised players plan phased price hikes of Rs 25-85 per sq metre (7-15%) for GVT/PVT tiles. Organised players are better-positioned due to higher inventory (45-60 days versus 18-20 days for unorganised units), and the disruption could even lead to permanent closure of 5-6% of plants, JM Financial said in a research note.

Export outlook remains weak, as a large share of Morbi shipments goes to West Asia, to which trade flows are currently disrupted.

The Morbi cluster has 700-725 active plants producing ceramic, glazed vitrified tiles (GVT) and polished vitrified tiles (PVT). However, 90-95 plants have already shut operations due to fuel shortages. The industry primarily relies on propane (about 70% of fuel mix) and natural gas (20-22%). LNG use is limited to 1-2%. Propane supply has been disrupted after the government directed oil marketing companies and private suppliers to prioritise LPG over propane. In addition, Gujarat Gas has indicated that supply may cease after March 15.

Tile plants must have a controlled shutdown, typically maintaining a buffer of 2-3 days to gradually reduce kiln temperatures. Restarting a plant also takes the same number of days and costs Rs 20 lakh in case of large plants and Rs 10-12 lakh for smaller units. While alternatives such as coal or RLNG are technically feasible, modifying kiln setups would take at least a month, limiting near-term substitution options. Gujarat Gas is currently in discussions with the authorities to continue supplying gas to existing customers, potentially at a 40-45% higher price, the research note said.

Gas accounts for 20-25% of total production cost in tile manufacturing. In response to the sharp increase in fuel costs and supply constraints, organised players have decided to implement price hikes in three phases in March 2026. The magnitude of hikes is expected to be Rs 25-85 per sq metre (implying 7-15% price hikes) for GVT/PVT tiles, while ceramic wall tile prices are unlikely to see increases at this stage.

Organised players are relatively better-positioned due to higher inventory buffers (45-60 days), compared with 18-20 days for unorganised players in Morbi. As a result, supply disruptions could lead to temporary capacity shutdowns among smaller manufacturers, benefiting organised players with stronger balance sheets and distribution networks. The disruption could potentially lead to permanent closure of 5-6% of plants in the Morbi cluster.

Exports account for a significant portion of Morbi production, with 35-40% of shipments directed to West Asia. Exports to this region are currently disrupted, although routes to markets such as the US, Russia, and Latin America remain operational.

PV dispatches up 10.6% in Feb to 4.18 lakh units, says SIAM

NEW DELHI, PTI

Domestic passenger vehicle (PV) dispatches from companies to dealers rose 10.6% year-on-year to 4,17,705 units in February amid positive market sentiments, but the war in West Asia remains a concern as it could impact manufacturing and exports, industry body SIAM said on Friday.

Passenger vehicle dispatches stood at 3,77,689 units in February 2025.

Growth in PV sales last month was driven mainly by

utility vehicles, which clocked a growth of 13.5% at 2,36,957 units, compared to 2,08,795 units in February last year.

Passenger car dispatches declined 3.8% at 1,06,799 units last month, compared to 1,10,966 units in the year-ago period, SIAM said.

Sales of vans in the domestic market were at 11,620 units last month, compared to 11,493 units in February 2025, up 1.1%, it added.

Two-wheeler sales rose 35.2% to 18,71,406 units last month, as against 13,84,605 units in February last year, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said in a statement.

Motorcycle sales in February were up 30.8% at 10,96,537 units, as against 8,38,250 units in the year-ago month.

Similarly, scooter sales rose 42.3% at 7,29,774 units last month, compared to 5,12,783 units in the same period last year, SIAM said.

Three-wheeler dispatches to dealers were up 29% last month at 74,573 units, as against 57,788 units in the year-ago period, it added.

Commenting on the performance, SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said, "Positive sentiments in the industry continue as passenger vehicles, two-wheelers, and three-wheelers posted their highest ever Sales of February in 2026, with double-digit growth, compared to February 2025."

On the road ahead, he said, "While March has festive drivers in several parts of the country, the recent conflict in West Asia remains a concern, both from the perspective of supply chain, which could impact manufacturing processes, and exports."

The industry would keep a close watch on the evolving geopolitical developments, he added.

Akasa Air plans first MRO facility at Noida Int'l Airport

BENGALURU, DHNS: Akasa Air plans to set up its first Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility at the upcoming Noida International Airport (NIA) in Uttar Pradesh, the low-cost airline announced on Friday.

The move, which aims to boost India's aviation sector, follows a strategic partnership between the two entities. "The collaboration reflects a shared commitment to strengthening India's aviation infrastructure and positioning NIA as one of the country's leading MRO hubs," Akasa Air said in a statement.

Under the agreement, the airline will operate a state-of-the-art MRO facility within the airport premises, offering advanced services, supporting a broad spectrum of aircraft maintenance activities and ensuring high standards of operational efficiency and safety. The MRO facility also aims to generate local employment opportunities, and foster skill development in the region.

"As India's aviation market continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, developing strong domestic MRO capabilities will be critical for airlines to operate efficiently and reliably at scale," Akasa Air Founder and CEO Vinay Dube said.

Tata Motors wins orders for 5k buses

MUMBAI, DHNS: Tata Motors has bagged cumulative orders for more than 5,000 buses and bus chassis from multiple State Transport Undertakings (STUs) across India.

Each tender was awarded through a competitive e-bidding process under the government's procurement system, with deployments scheduled in phases, as agreed with the STUs.

Accordingly, the orders have been secured from MSRTC (Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation), GSRTC (Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation), NWKRTC (North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation), TGSRTC (Telangana State Road Transport Corporation), BSRTC (Bihar State Road Transport Corporation), RSRTC (Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation), KSRTC (Kerala State Road Transport Corporation), Department of Road Transport (Haryana Roadways), and CTU (Chandigarh Transport Undertaking).

Mercedes to up prices by 2%

NEW DELHI, PTI: Leading luxury car manufacturer Mercedes-Benz India on Friday said it will hike vehicle prices by around 2% from April to offset the impact of forex volatility and increase in input costs.

"Starting April 1, we will be implementing a price correction of around 2% across our portfolio," Mercedes-Benz India VP (Sales & Marketing) Brendon Sissing said.

Adobe's longtime CEO to exit role amid AI disruption

Shantanu Narayen

BENGALURU, REUTERS: Adobe's longtime CEO Shantanu Narayen will leave his role once a successor is appointed, the design software maker said, sending its shares down over 7% in extended trading on renewed worries around its strategy as it grapples with AI disruption.

Narayen's exit from the role comes after he served as the head of Adobe for 18 years, during which he helped the company's flagship software such as Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro and In-Design become household products for creatives across the world.

Narayen will stay on as chair of the board to support the next CEO, the company said. But the announcement of him leaving the helm puts the company in a precarious position as it comes at a time when Adobe is doubling down on AI, striking partnerships and exploring acquisitions to extend its industry lead.

Adobe is grappling with a changing software landscape, where AI is lowering the barrier to entry for design and its dominant position in the industry is being threatened by newcomers embracing the technology.

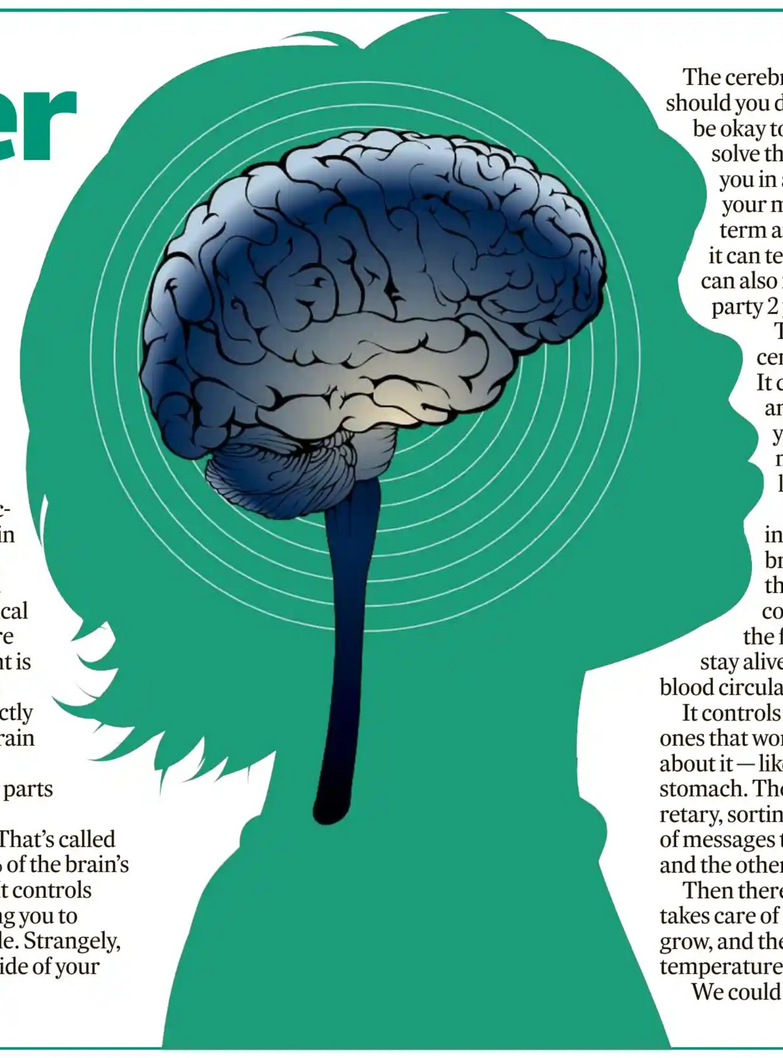
"Investors will likely focus on whether incoming leadership maintains a balance between disciplined execution and aggressive AI investment, especially as competition in creative and enterprise AI intensifies," said Emarketer analyst Grace Harmon.

Worries have also flared with the rise of new automated AI tools and agents that many fear would be able to disrupt traditional software subscription models and give way to quicker and cheaper ways of creating products.

While Adobe has bet heavily on AI to bolster its product suite, "investor skepticism about monetisation timing and payoff may have factored into a drop in its share prices," Harmon said.

The computer within

Valsala Rajan writes about the brain, the body's most powerful organ, which works tirelessly to help us think, move, and learn



Some of us are truly wizards with a computer, and some of us... Well, we avoid having to deal with one if that's at all possible! But there's one supercomputer that we all continually use day in and day out, and one that I often worry is falling out of use (rusting?) thanks to AI and all that it can do for us.

Yes, I'm talking about the brain. Spare a thought for that device that quietly ticks away inside its own safe house and manages almost everything that we as human beings need to think, act, feel and remember day after day. It's the fattiest organ in the body, and it's one thing that needs to be fatty! It's also about 75% water, and that's part of the reason that everyone keeps reminding us to drink lots of water. You could light a bulb with the power used by the brain, but I think powering this is much more important, don't you? The brain has 86 billion neurons and forms thousands of connections. Luckily, it doesn't feel pain itself, so no, that headache you got isn't the brain hurting! And you must have seen those medical series where patients' brains are operated upon while the patient is still awake and talking, helping brain surgeons judge what exactly needs to be done next. Every brain is unique.

Let's begin with a look at the parts of the brain.

That big part of the brain...? That's called the cerebrum. It makes up 85% of the brain's weight. The cerebrum thinks. It controls the voluntary muscles — helping you to catch a ball or pedal your bicycle. Strangely, the right side controls the left side of your body and vice versa.

The cerebrum helps you to reason — should you do your homework now, or will it be okay to put it off for later? It helps you solve those math problems and helps you in art class. The cerebrum is also your memory centre — both short-term and long-term. That means that it can tell you what you just read, but it can also remind you about your birthday party 2 years ago.

The cerebellum is below the cerebrum and towards the back. It controls balance, movement, and coordination. Essential when you're driving, playing blind man's bluff or climbing up a ladder.

Beneath the cerebrum and in front of the cerebellum is the brain stem. It not only connects the rest of the brain to the spinal cord but is also in charge of all the functions your body needs to stay alive, like breathing, digestion, and blood circulation.

It controls the involuntary muscles — the ones that work without you doing anything about it — like the ones in the heart and stomach. The brain stem also acts as a secretary, sorting and forwarding the millions of messages that are sent between the brain and the other parts of the body.

Then there's the tiny pituitary gland that takes care of the hormones you need to grow, and the hypothalamus that controls temperature.

We could almost say that there is no such thing as brain overload. That's if the data from 20,000-plus iPhones is enough for you?! And the speed? Around 268 mph. This wonderful organ also has the ability to constantly change and adapt to your requirements too — if only you make sure that it knows what you need. Befriend it!

The initial process of putting information into your brain is called encoding (yes, just as with a computer). It is more effective when you are attentive, organised, and the information is understood properly. Strengthening and storing what you know happens most effectively while you're in deep sleep. This is called consolidation. And then here's the best part — retrieval when you want it. The more you retrieve information, the stronger that neural pathway becomes.

When you learn things, messages travel from one neuron to another, and when you retrieve something often, the brain starts to create connections between the neurons, so things become easier and you can do them better.

Sometimes, retrieval can involve getting information from different parts of the brain, but with a little help from you, it does all of this most efficiently all your life.

With age, the brain's ability to create new neurons or the speed with which messages are communicated may slow down, but a little help in keeping this magnificent organ healthy can go a long way. Remember that your brain continues to develop till you're about 25, so feed it well, keep it well-oiled with use and make sure it's at its best to serve you!

4 MOVIES on happiness

International Day of Happiness is celebrated on March 20

Spirited Away (2001)

Directed by Hayao Miyazaki, this film follows a 10-year-old girl named Chihiro. When she accidentally enters a mysterious world ruled by spirits, she must find courage and kindness to rescue her parents and return home. Although the story has some tense moments, its deeper message focuses on growth, empathy and discovering inner strength, showing that happiness can come from courage and compassion.

The film won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature in 2003 and the Golden Bear for Best Film at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2002.

Inside Out (2015)

Directed by Pete Docter, this Pixar film takes viewers inside the mind of an 11-year-old girl named Riley. When Riley's family moves to a new city, the emotions inside her head — Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust — struggle to help her adjust to the changes around her. As Joy and Sadness get lost inside Riley's mind, the film becomes a journey to restore emotional balance. Children learn that sadness, disappointment and fear are part of life, and understanding them can help people become happier and more resilient.

'Inside Out' won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature in 2016.

The Mitchells vs the Machines (2021)

Directed by Michael Rianda, this animated film centres on the quirky Mitchell family. When robots take over the world, the dysfunctional but loving family unexpectedly becomes humanity's last hope. Amid the chaos, they rediscover how much they care for one another. The film highlights that happiness often lies in accepting our families and appreciating what makes each of us unique.

It won the Annie Award for Best Animated Feature and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature in 2022.

Luca (2021)

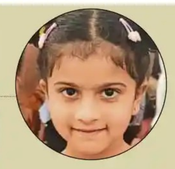
Directed by Enrico Casarosa, this film, set in a charming Italian seaside town, follows Luca, a shy sea monster who ventures onto land and disguises himself as a human. During one unforgettable summer, he befriends a boy named Alberto and discovers simple pleasures like riding a bicycle, eating pasta and exploring the world. The film celebrates the joy of friendship and self-acceptance. Its message is simple: happiness comes when we embrace who we are and find those who support us on our journey. The film was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature in 2022.

When flowers bloom...

Open Sesame readers share their art

On February 21, *Open Sesame* asked its young readers to send in their artworks. Soon, we were flooded with entries from across the country. Many paintings were good, but we can only publish a few because of space constraints. Don't let that discourage you. Get creative and keep writing and painting, and stand a chance to be featured in an upcoming edition! Send your entries to: *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*

NIKETHA RAJESH IYER, 12
Bengaluru, Karnataka



KRISHA RAJIV KONIN, 5
Kalaburagi, Karnataka

SRIAANSH, 10
Bengaluru, Karnataka

DHRUTI G KRISHNA, 8
Bengaluru, Karnataka

NAVISHA S MADDARAKI, 11
Bengaluru, Karnataka

SHARANYA N, 14
Hoskote, Karnataka

This Week:

Idyllic island

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 On March 12, 1968, Mauritius gained freedom from British rule. Which Mauritian politician, fondly called 'Chacha', was the country's first prime minister, and is revered as the 'Father of the Nation'?

Q2 On March 12, 2025, at the Mauritius National Day celebrations, who was honoured with the highest civilian award of that country, becoming the first Indian to receive it?

Q3 Mauritius, so named by the Dutch, was later Isle de France to the French, before reverting to Mauritius under the British. Which colonial power named its capital city?

Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: The dodo, which lived only in Mauritius, was a flightless __.
Clue B: One of three equal parts of something.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Which Mauritian author received the 2024 Neustadt International Prize for Literature? Use these clues.
a) French
b) Harrikrisna
c) 1957
d) Trois-Boutiques

WINNER'S NAMES: Niketha Rajesh Iyer (12), Bengaluru; Girish Badiya (14), Thogarsi; Aaryan KS (14), Tumakuru.
ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: A1) Karnal, A2) Lata Mangeshkar, A3) 1848, A4) Minister/Sinister, A5) Padmaja Naidu.

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic 'Should schools teach life skills like cooking and budgeting?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Entries close on March 19. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'My favourite place' to *Open Sesame.* You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Entries close on April 2. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to your favourite tree

If you could have a conversation with your favourite tree, what would you like to know about it, and what would you tell it about you? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph. Entries close on March 26.

Word of the Week

vagrant

(noun)
— a person who has no home and no job, especially one who asks people for money

Usage:
— The old building had become a shelter for vagrants during the night.
— The child watched a vagrant feeding stray dogs near the park.

Swimming Guru
on a life-saving mission

Saji Valasseril has been holding free survival swimming lessons in Kerala to prevent drowning. Arjun Raghunath visits him

Every morning at 5.30 am, a long whistle pierces the quiet banks of the Periyar river in Aluva, a suburb of Kochi. Children, office-goers, and grandparents swiftly fall into neat lines. They say a silent prayer before doing warm-up drills for the swimming lesson. No swimming pool comforts are in sight — no steel ladders, no shower cubicles, and no clear blue water. They must descend a flight of stone steps, wade into the olive-green waters, and get started in a river that stretches endlessly.

This is no ordinary swimming class. It is not for recreation or competitive sport, and no fees are charged. The goal is to learn swimming in open waters and be prepared against drowning.

This early morning routine has played out at Desam Kadavu, near the popular Aluva Manappuram pilgrim centre in Kerala, for the past 16 years. All thanks to Saji Thomas, a furniture shop owner whose life mission is to reduce drowning incidents.

When I visit his swimming camp on a Monday, 184 people have turned up for training. But for Saji, better known as Saji Valasseril here, the numbers are small. He suspects the ongoing examination season and Ramzan fasting may have kept many away. He runs the free riverside swimming camp every year from November to May. On most weekdays, about 300 people show up, while weekends draw twice as many. To date, 16,000 people have learned to swim under Saji's watchful eye, and nearly 4,000 of them have crossed the Periyar, swimming diagonally across 780 metres from one bank to the other.

Funded largely from his own pockets and donations, this voluntary initiative has achieved far more than it intended. Some who came simply to learn a survival skill have gone on to set swimming records, build careers in paralympic sport, rescue people during floods, and, in several cases, overcome alcohol and tobacco addiction.

Welcome to heaven

Saji's love of water began at age six. His father, V Thomas Mani, was a swimmer with the Madras Regiment of the Indian Army. The Periyar flows less than a kilometre from his home.

The idea of teaching river swimming came after Saji was disturbed by frequent drowning incidents in Kerala, particularly the Thattekkad boat disaster of 2007. The boat capsized near the Kochi-Idukki border during a school excursion, claiming 18 lives, including 15 children. Reports suggest that drowning kills roughly 1,400 people in the state every year. "My sole motto is that no one should drown simply because they don't know how to swim," says the 62-year-old.

He began by teaching his daughter Merin, now a physiotherapist, his son Jerin, currently in college, and a few relatives, without using any equipment. His wife Jiji, a homemaker, followed suit. That small beginning set the tone for what became the Valasseril River Swimming Club (VRSC).

Today, a jagged name board marks the club's presence on the riverbank. An old tyre hanging from a tree bears the Malayalam words 'Ividam Swargamanu' (This is heaven). Another board lists the number of drownings recorded along this stretch of the Periyar. The count stands at nine, the latest victim being a bank employee from Tamil Nadu. He drowned while bathing here, unaware of the river's sudden depth. He did not know how to swim.

Before daybreak, under emergency lights, Saji and his student-turned-volunteers begin preparations. The training area stretches 350 feet long, 50 feet wide, and about 10 feet deep. They lay out around 24 swimming lanes using inflatable buoys and pipes. One end is barricaded with a tarpaulin sheet to provide privacy for women using the bathing ghat behind it, while at the other end, an iron pole carries a warning about deep waters and strong currents. Some volunteers stay on the bank and flash torchlights for students arriving in the dark and guide them past obstacles such as dung.

A rescue boat and ambulance are always on standby. Participants voluntarily contribute a one-time fee of Rs 100 for these safety arrangements. "As the number of students started increasing, the authorities raised concerns, so we had to put these measures in place," says Saji, adding, "There hasn't been a single emergency so far."

The setting is scenic. Dense trees lean over the riverbank. The opposite bank is lined with palm trees, houses with sloping roofs, and modern apartments. Lie back in the water, and you see clear skies and birds gliding overhead. Yet few come to take in the view. Watching students try, fail, try again, and succeed, I found myself invested in their progress. In them, I was reminded of my own story: I can swim in shallow pools but can never quite manage deep water. Open rivers look inviting, yet intimidating. It's this push and pull many of us feel when facing a river.

Doctorate in swimming?

VRSC feels a bit like a school. The swimming curriculum is divided into 17 levels, from Pre-KG to PD (Post-Doctoral). "Once you clear Plus Two, you can consider yourself a good swimmer," says Saji with a laugh.

At the PG level, swimmers practise floating continuously for up to two hours. They must also dive about 10 feet underwater and return with sand from the riverbed to earn their PG honours. After that comes NS, short for the Malayalam phrase 'Nirbandha Sevanam', meaning compulsory voluntary service. For at least six days, trainees assist with the classes until they are ready for the ultimate test — crossing the river. It is like a graduation ceremony, attended by family, friends and even district authorities. Finally comes PD, which requires swimming against the current and training in rough weather. Students also learn to use rescue buoys so they can save themselves or others in case they are in trouble. All students have to start from scratch, regardless of prior experience. About 70% of them discontinue after learning the basics, which usually takes 20-30 days.

Saji Valasseril has taught swimming to 16,000 people in the past 16 years.

Made paralympic champ

A majority of people approach Saji to overcome a fear they believe swimming pools cannot cure, the fear of open water. They want to face it head-on, from Day 1. The urge to conquer that fear comes from many places.

Viswambharan was 15 when he fell into a water body and narrowly escaped. It left him with a deep, lasting fear. Fifty-five years later, at 70, he travelled from the adjacent district of Thrissur to learn river swimming.

Sudheesh Babu, who works with a public sector undertaking, would feel jittery while travelling over the Periyar or other rivers by train. "I would start thinking, 'What if I fall into the water?' Accidents, like the 1988 Peruman rail tragedy, when the Island Express, travelling from Bangalore to Thiruvananthapuram, derailed near Kollam and 105 people drowned in Ashtamudi lake, come rushing to mind," he recalls.

Jincy Jose recently enrolled with her four-year-old daughter. "We live near a canal. I am always worried about an accident," explains the homemaker.

Over the years, Saji's students have come from all walks of life, from senior government officers to doctors and police personnel, even Malayalam actor Tini Tom. Yet the story most often talked about is that of Muhammed Aasim.

Born without arms and with a deformed leg, Aasim has won several titles in para-swimming. Last month, he helped India win its first gold medal in the mixed 4x50 freestyle relay at the 2026 Para Swimming World Series in Australia. The story began years ago when Saji read about Aasim in a local newspaper. The boy, from Kozhikode, 180 km from Aluva, had been petitioning the Kerala government to upgrade his school so children like him could study. Moved, Saji travelled to meet Aasim's parents and asked if he could teach the boy to swim. It took time to convince them. Eventually, Saji arranged for Aasim to stay at his home and refused a single paisa as 'guru dakshina'. In less than a month, Aasim, then 15, crossed the Periyar.

Since then, Saji has trained at least 10 differently abled swimmers. During my visit, I see 11-year-old Antony Ryan, who uses a wheelchair, waiting for his turn to enter the water. He aspires to be a para-swimmer. "Ryan had trained elsewhere, but the support we saw here for children like him made us approach Saji," says his mother, Aneena.

For some, Saji has fulfilled lifelong dreams. "Both my legs were affected by polio when I was two and a half years old, but I always wanted to swim," says Rateesh N P, 42. He joined in 2022. "Saji sir told me physical deformities aren't a barrier if you are mentally strong. I learned to swim in 11 days and crossed the Periyar on the 22nd day. Now I even swim in the sea. Earlier I used to fear I might drown even in two feet of water."

Many like Minu Kanatt, a Merchant Navy captain, approach Saji with professional goals. He says, "In our job, we are mainly trained to use life jackets and other safety equipment. I thought learning to swim in rough conditions would be an added advantage," he says.

Building community

Saji's swimming club has taken on a life of its own. Stanley Joseph and Venugopalan K are admittedly slow in their progress, but the retired professionals don't mind. They say the club offers companionship and camaraderie.

Many others have found unexpected benefits, and even a sense of purpose. A Malayali family settled in Mumbai sent their 33-year-old son to Saji's camp last year, hoping it might help him overcome smoking addiction. Saji had made no such promise. But discipline, he believes, can reshape lives. The student found a healthier distraction, and today he is a keen swimmer and volunteers at the camp.

On the doctor's recommendation, Rinusha T R came here to find relief from post-Covid breathing problems. In a year, the government schoolteacher had regained her lung strength, and crossed the river.

Remya Ratheesh believes Saji's 'unusual' methods helped her son Arush, seven at the time of training, overcome speech difficulties. Before every class, Saji gathers the children for a short assembly. Standing on a plastic chair, he randomly asks them to speak on different topics, anything except politics or war. Sometimes they talk about school life, training, or personal achievements. He also insists every child describe the route from their home to the camp. During students' birthdays, toffees are handed out, but Saji insists no wrapper be left behind. He loves nature, and some trainers joke it's fitting his birthday falls on June 5, World Environment Day!

On the day of my visit, the topic of discussion is changing times. Saji tells the children how, in his childhood, people used fire sticks instead of torches to move around at night, walked long distances when transport was scarce, and cooked together over firewood during weddings long before catering services existed.

Sometimes conversations drift into serious territory. One day, Saji spoke about the problem of children wandering to water bodies without knowing how to swim or telling their parents. A student then recalled a real incident. A woman he knew was searching for her son who had gone out to play but had not returned home. She found four of his friends on a riverbank, but they insisted they hadn't seen him. However, the mother noticed the boy's clothes lying on the bank. The child, it turned out, was hiding under water, holding his breath so he wouldn't be caught!

Ahead of government

The vast majority of students come from Aluva and its surroundings, with a few from other districts. Saji insists the popularity of his classes hasn't created tension with other swimming coaches. His work is a social service, and it recently drew the praise of the Kochi district collector. Some also say Kochavva, a character in the 2016 Malayalam film 'Kochavva Paulo Ayyappa Coelho', also teaches swimming to locals for free, much like Saji. A local I meet on his morning walk recommends a Padma Shri award for Saji's service. It's not hard to see why. Saji recognised the urgency of drowning deaths in Kerala long before the government. Only last year did Kerala launch a World Health Organization-led initiative to teach survival swimming in schools, but it has been progressing at a snail's pace.

But for Saji, the greatest reward is when he sees a student transform, from fearing water to embracing it, as if a switch has been turned on. He loves unleashing their adventurous side. Like, when he and 184 students swam 3.1 kilometres across Vembanad Lake, Kerala's largest lake. Or when his student Malu Shaika became the first woman to swim the lake solo at age 20. Or when Arifa V K swam across the Periyar at the age of 69. Or when his team assisted in rescue operations during the 2018 Kerala floods.

It is 8.30 am, and the camp comes to an end. Students climb out of the water and onto the stone steps, and head to makeshift changing rooms. Meanwhile, Saji and his volunteers pack up the equipment and buoys, clear the riverbank, and stow everything in a shed before heading off for their daily work. Within minutes, all the brisk activity disappears, and the Periyar falls quiet again. Tomorrow, the routine will repeat. Saji will whistle, step into the water, call out 'Kunjumakalle' (dear kids), and the students will shout back 'Enthooo!', a sign they are ready for the swimming lesson.

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MUSICANA

All-women ensemble explores global folk music

Folk and Tonic have been performing covers of Japanese, Spanish and Irish folk tunes for almost a decade, writes Sathvi G Bhat

Since 2017, all-women ensemble Folk and Tonic, have been entertaining Bengaluru audiences with covers of global folk music. Their repertoire spans eastern European, Russian, Japanese, African, Afro-Cuban, Indian, and Ladino folk traditions. They draw on the rich harmonies of these musical traditions and combine them with their own vocal identities.

"Folk is about passing down stories. We try to give context and draw the audience into these narratives," says Deepa Jacob, mezzo-soprano of the group, which will perform in Bengaluru tonight.

Earlier called The Bangalore Company, the quartet comprises Deepa, Anisha Chandy (soprano), Sowmya Raghavan (alto), and Nora Alexy (contra-alto). The ensemble is occasionally accompanied by Varun Krishna (classical guitar), Siddharth Suresh (keyboard) and Sanket Chakraborty (percussion and sound engineer).

The group's synergy stems from a lifetime immersed in harmony. Anisha grew up singing in church, which led to a brief stint as a recording artiste for the Indian film industry while Deepa and Nora found their footing in the world of collegiate a cappella. "It was like a page out of 'Pitch Perfect'," Nora explains. Sowmya's influences are equally diverse, ranging from being a part of her school choir to her keen interest in the raw energy of rock metal and blues. "It feels right, we are one strong unit," she notes.

Navigating the vocal arrangements of these diverse musical streams as an all-women ensemble also presents unique technical puzzles. Without a male bass line, they need to be strategic with their vocal registers. "There aren't many all-female references," Nora explains. The group frequently refers to the blueprints of all female ensembles 'Sexto Sentido' and 'Coco's Lunch'.

Some diverse musical pieces the group frequently performs include 'The parting glass', a 17th century Irish-Scottish folk song which signifies parting and is often sung at farewells, 'Puncha puncha', a Spanish ladino folk tune representing heartbreak and melancholic emotions, and 'Sakura', a 17th century Japanese folk song describing the turn of the seasons marking the start of cherry blossoms.

Folk and Tonic was formed in 2017.

Their repertoire reflects the connections between different styles of music from across the globe. Sowmya notes how migration carried musical DNA across borders, connecting Italian pieces to Indian folk. By blending these traditions with their own vocal identities, the group allows audiences to travel across continents while staying exactly where they are.

"The city has a big appetite for this," Sowmya says of Bengaluru's live scene. "I think folk music is always relevant and will far outlive any of us," she concludes.

For decades, filmmakers in the region have been defying repression with stories rich in irony and allegory, writes Amogh Ravindra

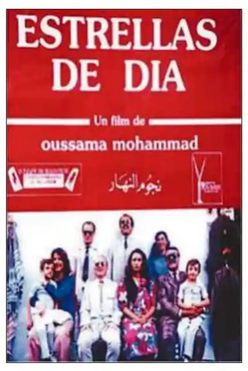
The intense unsung cinema of West Asia

BEYOND IRAN

There is a lazy assumption that war destroys culture. That when the bombs fall, the cameras stop and nothing remains until the rubble is cleared. West Asian cinema has spent 50 years quietly proving that wrong, largely without audience attention, because Iranian cinema took up all the oxygen in the room.

Everyone knows Iranian cinema. Farhadi at Cannes, Panahi under arrest, a government that keeps accidentally making its filmmakers more interesting by trying to silence them. Iranian cinema has a story the West knows how to tell. What the West has largely missed is everything happening around Iran, across a region making extraordinary films under extraordinary conditions, in some cases for longer and in more interesting circumstances.

Before the wars, there was a real industry there. Beirut in the 1960s was the Hollywood of the Arab world, with the best infrastructure in the region and Egyptian stars flying in to shoot. Syria, Iraq and Jordan all had functioning state-sponsored film organisations.



Ossama Mohammed's 'Stars in Broad Daylight' (1988) features a tyrannical patriarch who bears an unmistakable physical resemblance to the then dictator Hafez al-Assad. Assad watched a private screening, did not laugh once, and banned it.

After the collapse, they did not have to start from scratch. It was rebuilding, under fire, with less money and more urgency. Lebanon lost it first, and what came back after 1990 was smaller and more honest — Ziad Doueiri's 'West Beirut' (1998), Nadine Labaki's 'Capernaum' (2018). One producer described receiving scripts that circled the same four subjects almost without exception: the civil war, sectarian tension, exile, refugees. The question Lebanese cinema keeps avoiding is whether memory is a subject or a trap.

Syria's story is stranger. The National Film Organisation, a Ba'athist state body, accidentally produced some of the most subversive Arab cinema of the 20th century. Censorship forced filmmakers into allegory, and allegory, handled well, is harder to ban than a direct statement. Ossama Mohammed's 'Stars in Broad Daylight' (1988) features a tyrannical patriarch who bears an unmistakable physical resemblance to the then-dictator Hafez al-Assad. According to a 2025 *New York Times* article about film restoration, Assad watched a private screening, did not laugh once, and banned it. It went to Cannes. Almost nobody in the West knows Syria was considered a world pioneer of cinematic modernity in the '70s and '80s, because that story does not fit the one the West already has about Syria.

Nadine Labaki's 'Capernaum' (2018) is the most popular Lebanese film. It was critically acclaimed and won the Jury Prize at Cannes.

While filming 'Wadjda' (2012), Haifaa al-Mansour, Saudi Arabia's first female filmmaker, often had to direct scenes from inside a van, using a walkie-talkie. It was not legal for women to publicly direct male actors. The rules are more relaxed now.

A Golden Globes feature about the history of Iraqi cinema says the country had 300 cinemas before 1991. Sanctions banned filmmaking equipment. The 2003 invasion destroyed what remained. What survived is not an industry but a collection of rebellious individuals, often shooting in Jordan because Baghdad was too dangerous to use as itself. Filmmaker Mohamed Al-Daradji was kidnapped twice while making his debut feature, once by militias and again by the US military, both on the same day. His 2025 film 'Irkalla' tells Baghdad's story through the myth of Gilgamesh. That is not a cinema in survival mode. That is a cinema that believes it will outlast the damage.

Palestine has made a similar decision under worse conditions. No state, no stable infrastructure, no uncontested territory, and yet it has produced some of the most internationally decorated cinema of the last 30 years. Elia Suleiman chose absurdism in 'Divine Intervention' (2002). Hany Abu-Assad chose paranoid political thrillers, earning two Oscar nominations with 'Paradise Now' (2005) and 'Omar' (2013). Annemarie Jacir chose quiet domestic realism, where the occupation is felt in logistics rather than soldiers. In 2024, 'From Ground Zero', 22 short films shot inside an active bombardment, was still being made while buildings came down around the crew.

Jordan is playing two roles simultaneously. Wadi Rum and Petra have become the default backlot for Western productions that need the 'Middle East' to look cinematic but not complicated. Hollywood comes here to borrow the landscape. Jordanian cinema, to its credit, is starting to do something more difficult: claim it. 'Theeb', a Bedouin Western set during the Arab Revolt (1916-1918), earned an Oscar nomination in 2015 without a trace of 'Lawrence of Arabia' romanticism. Saudi Arabia swung from a 35-year ban to the largest cinema market in the West in a decade. As

Filmmaker Mohamed Al-Daradji who made the 2025 film 'Irkalla', was kidnapped twice while making his debut feature, once by militias and once by the US military, both on the same day.

Haifaa Al-Mansour — the country's first woman filmmaker — herself told NPR in 2013, whenever her crew shot outdoor scenes for 'Wadjda' (2012), she sat in a van with a walkie-talkie and a monitor, unable to be seen on the street directing men. That film became Saudi Arabia's first-ever Oscar submission. Whether state-built cinema can now afford to be an honest mirror remains an open question. Oman, neutral in every geopolitical conversation, has produced almost no films at all. It has one feature film on record, a 2006 Beckett-inspired drama about a fishing community, and a film society running a festival since 2000. That is not an industry. It is the outline of one.

The international festival circuit follows all of this, but not neutrally. The films broke through when the West was already watching their countries burn. That is not discovery. That is just attention arriving late.

What gets lost in that framing is simple. These are not films about conflict. They are films about people who had the misfortune of living inside one, and who kept making art anyway. Not as therapy. Not as protest. But because the impulse to tell a story does not pause for wars, bans or burning archives. Tragedy can silence a person. It has never, in the long run, silenced cinema. Every film across this region asks the same question underneath it all. What does it cost to live inside history you did not choose?

Syria answered in allegory. Palestine in absurdism. Lebanon is still circling the question, unable to look away from the wound. The question has been sitting there for decades, patient and unresolved. The cameras have been rolling. People have been trying to tell a story. The world is only now starting to watch.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

MOVIE REVIEWS

Taut thriller rich in symbolism, visual poetry

PUSHKAR V

Lee Byung-hun in the festival favourite.

★★★½☆

No Other Choice

Korean (Mubi)

Director: Park Chan-wook

Cast: Lee Byung-hun, Son Ye-jin, Park Hee-soon, Lee Sung-min

Imagine if one wrong turn at work flips your life upside down, and pulls you into a web of difficult choices. 'No Other Choice', Park Chan-wook's latest thriller, tells the story of Man-su, a regular guy who works in a paper factory. He lives with his family in a beautiful home that boasts a lush green garden, until the axe falls.

Following his unceremonious lay-off, Man-su is confronted with navigating life in a conservative South Korean society that subscribes to the belief that "fired means finished".

In South Korea, getting fired is not just about losing a pay cheque. It is looked down on, your family is shamed and your dreams buried. Once, Man-su's prized garden was bursting with perfect blooms. Now, they stand wilting and weeds choke the pathway - a symbol of his control slipping away.

Kim Woo-hyung's camera dances wild here, like in Park's other films 'Decision to Leave' and 'The Handmaiden'. Think wide-angle shots, fast swooping scenes and close-ups of the characters' faces, which almost reveal their souls. The visual poetry turns everyday spaces into a cinematographic treat.

Gore is central to Park's films. In this one, he makes it more deliberate to ensure viewers feel Man-su's and his family's desperation. He ignores his tooth ache, cuts back on his prodigious daughter's cello classes, his son turns to robbery and they give up their beloved dogs.

'No Other Choice' is another of Park's signature visual feasts. The taut crime drama, a film festival favourite, is a must watch.

Two boys gently navigate realities of Manipur society

PRANATI A S

Gugun Kipgen and Angom Sanamatum.

★★★★☆

Boong

Manipuri (Theatres)

Director: Lakshmipriya Devi

Cast: Gugun Kipgen, Angom Sanamatum, Bala Hijam, Vikram Kochhar

When the film 'Boong' won the BAFTA award last month, it cast a gentle light on the raging tensions in Manipur.

The Manipuri-language children's film reveals how ordinary people live when conflict is not far away. The story begins with Brojendro, or Boong's quest to bring something 'long-lasting' as a gift for his mother. He lives with her in Imphal, where the two wait patiently (and desperately) for his father to return from a business trip to Moreh. Years have passed, and there are loud whispers in the community that he has abandoned the family.

All that Boong and his mother Mandakini know is that he runs a Burmese teak business. Their hopes come crashing down when a death certificate is issued in the father's name. Accompanied by his friend Raju, Boong goes on a long journey to Moreh, close to the Myanmar border, looking for his father.

The two children navigate societal prejudices — while Boong is looked down upon for being 'fatherless', Raju, whose family migrated from Rajasthan decades ago, is still called an outsider.

Much like 'The Bicycle Thieves', 'Pather Panchali' and 'Where is the Friend's House', Lakshmipriya Devi's film offers a gentle peek at society through the children's experiences. Boong's search for his father comes to an end as he embraces his mother. It is symbolic of how the central government has conveniently and consistently ignored Manipur's call for help!

In the end, 'Boong' is also a sweet tale of a mother and son that will leave you feeling happy and hopeful. A must watch for everyone, including Madonna, the pop star!

Heart there, craft missing

RASHMI VASUDEVA

The movie follows a Tamil girl in South Korea.

★★☆☆☆

Made in Korea

Tamil (Netflix)

Director: Ra Karthik

Cast: Priyanka Arul Mohan, Park Hye-jin, Jaehyun Jang

There's no denying the earnestness or sincerity of 'Made in Korea'. Alas, admirable sentiments alone do not make for a compelling screenplay or plot.

The story follows a young girl from rural Tamil Nadu, played with endearing innocence by Priyanka Arul Mohan, who dreams of visiting South Korea after being widely praised for her portrayal of Queen Shenbagam in a school play. According to the 13th-century Korean chronicle 'Samguk Yusa', Shenbagam was an Indian princess who travelled to Korea and became the first queen of Geumgwan Gaya in 48 AD.

Fuelled by this romantic historical connection, the girl nurtures a fantasy of Korea that eventually becomes reality. Once there, however, she must grapple with language barriers, cultural alienation and a deep loneliness. Gradually, she learns to survive and even thrive, helped along by a motley group of strangers with whom she forms unexpected emotional bonds.

The film wants to examine what happens when idle teenage fantasies collide with the harsher textures of adult reality. It gestures toward themes of migration, unfamiliarity, survival and the fragile search for belonging: All of which promise an engaging 90-minute journey. However, it falters badly in execution. Even its pleasant tone, a few genuinely warm moments and the vulnerability of its actors cannot rescue the viewer from a lingering sense of disappointment. The screenplay repeatedly hints at complex emotional and cultural questions but rarely develops them with the depth they deserve. In the end, 'Made in Korea' remains far removed from the cross-cultural drama it so clearly aspires to be.

Puneeth's 'Akash' re-released

A 4K remastered version of Puneeth Rajkumar's family entertainer 'Akash' was re-released on March 13 to commemorate the actor's 51st birth anniversary. The film also stars actor-politician Ramya. The popular song 'Neene neene' features in this film. The re-release is an annual tribute by the actor's family to keep his legacy alive.

8-week theatre run must before OTT release

South Indian film exhibitors have proposed a mandatory eight-week theatrical run for films before OTT release.

At the South India Film Exhibitors meet held on Wednesday in Bengaluru, exhibitors from the five southern states discussed challenges faced by cinema halls. The current window is four weeks between a theatre and OTT release.

Films will remain exclusive to theatres for eight weeks before streaming and satellite run. "It will be initiated from April 10. After that, if productions do not comply, we will not exhibit them at the theatres," M Narasimhalu, who owns Vaishnavi-Vaibhavi theatre, told *Showtime*. The rule will not apply to films that have already made a deal.

Other key discussions include scrapping the rental system and shifting to a revenue-sharing model. The exhibitors will meet again to further discuss.

The big problem with, BIG STAR FILMS

'Pan-India' blockbusters are disrupting the release schedules of smaller films, blocking legitimate criticism, and opposing affordable ticket pricing, writes Pranati A S

Big films with big stars are making life difficult for the larger Kannada film industry.

Take 'Toxic'. The film was supposed to hit screens on March 19. As a result, not a single other Kannada film was scheduled for release this month. Most productions were aiming for a June release — after 'Toxic' and the IPL final.

Now, with 'Toxic' suddenly pushed to June, a whole lineup of smaller films will have to delay their release by at least two weeks. This is not just about audiences preferring a big Yash film but also about major production houses using their money and muscle to take up most screens. The director of a film originally planned for June told Showtime, "We are facing a huge crisis now."

Earlier this year, when the release date for 'Dhurandhar 2' was announced, people speculated that 'Toxic' would be postponed. But the production company denied it, saying the film would be released as planned. In the first week of March, the company suddenly said the film would be postponed owing to the "crisis in West Asia". Industry insiders say the Gulf market does not contribute significantly to the box office to justify such a delay in the main market. Industry insiders say the Gulf market does not contribute significantly to the box office to justify delaying the release in the main market. 'KGF Chapter 2' earned approximately Rs 60 to 70 crore in the Gulf market out of the Rs 1,215 crore worldwide. Moreover, films released in West Asia face strict censorship — scenes with explicit content, nudity, and sometimes LGBTQIA+ references are removed or banned.

Meanwhile, rumours of Yash not being satisfied with how his film has turned out are popping up. A source close to the production team revealed that as of last week, the film was still at the dubbing stage.

"There was no way the film could have been released on March 19. They clearly weren't ready. Why announce a release date in a hurry?" the insider said.

In the 2025–2026 Karnataka budget, the Siddaramaiah government capped movie tickets at Rs 200. But in September last year, before the release of 'Kantara Chapter 1: The Legend Continues', the producers, Hombale Films, approached a court and got a stay on the order. They argued that big-budget films should be allowed to charge higher ticket prices. The prices then went up to Rs 1,000.

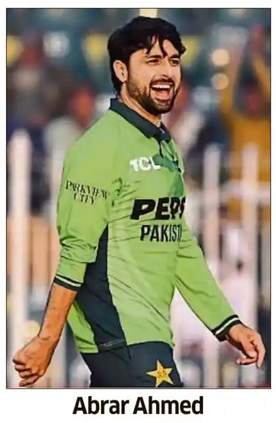
When tickets are priced below Rs 200, film buffs can watch four or five films for the price of one. They may watch films without big stars and expensively produced VFX. That is how an industry grows. Critics argue that the Rs 200 cap on movie tickets in Tamil Nadu is the reason behind the strong film viewing culture there. Hombale's petition also raises questions about why a leading production company would push back against a policy meant to make cinema more accessible.

Yash in 'Toxic'.

Bizarre new problem

Three major productions in December filed gag orders to block negative reviews. The industry often says the audience is king. But if viewers can't share their opinions about a film they paid to watch, what is the point? It suggests the audience voice matters only when it is positive.

Big star films bring scale and attention to the industry. But when they dominate screens, push up ticket prices and silence criticism, they raise a question the industry cannot ignore: are they a boon or a bane?



Abrar Ahmed

Shukla downplays Sunrisers Leeds' signing of Abrar

NEW DELHI, PTI: The BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla on Friday downplayed the acquisition of Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed by Sunrisers Leeds during The Hundred auction, saying the development in an "overseas league" is beyond the board's ambit.

The Sunrisers Leeds, owned by Chennai-based media conglomerate Sun Group, on Thursday signed Pakistan mystery spinner Abrar during The Hundred player auction, making him the first Pakistan cricketer to be picked by an Indian-owned franchise in the tournament. "It doesn't concern us. It's not the IPL. What happens in The Hundred or other overseas leagues, we have nothing to do with it," Shukla said.

The franchise paid GBP 190,000 (approximately Rs 2.34 crore) for Abrar after a bidding contest with Trent Rockets. The tournament will be held from July 21 to August 16.

Sunrisers Leeds faced backlash following Abrar's signing, with the team's X account suspended briefly.

IPL franchises have not signed any Pakistani player since 2009 due to strained diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Sun Group, which also owns Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL, completed a full takeover of the erstwhile Northern Superchargers.

FOOTBALL EUROPA LEAGUE

Midtjylland ambush erratic Forest

Panathinaikos beat Betis 1-0; Villa, FC Porto register victories

LONDON, AFP

Goal scorer Gue-sung Cho celebrates Midtjylland's win over Nottingham Forest on Thursday night. AFP

Nottingham Forest suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against Midtjylland in the Europa League last-16 first leg, while Ollie Watkins ended his goal drought as the Aston Villa striker sealed a 1-0 win at Lille on Thursday.

Vitor Pereira's side were rocked by Cho Gue-sung's late strike at the City Ground as Forest succumbed to the Danish underdogs for the second time this season.

Beaten 3-2 at home by Midtjylland in the group stage in October when Ange Postecoglou was the second of Forest's four managers this term, the Premier League strugglers must secure the first away win against the Danes this season in the second leg on March 19 to have a chance of advancing.

Midtjylland have won 12 of their last 14 matches in European competitions.

Forest, above the Premier League relegation zone on goal difference, went close when Omari Hutchinson's 30-yard rocket was tipped over by Elias Rafn Olafsson.

Elliot Anderson's curler forced another fine save from Olafsson before Midtjylland's Philip Billing headed off the line to stop Pedro Bravo scoring an own goal.

In torrential rain, Forest lost their footing in the 80th minute, triggering jeers from their frustrated fans.

Ousmane Diao's cross reached Cho and the South Korea striker planted a composed header past Matz Sels from close range. "It is difficult to explain. We created so many chances to score. Even if we were to draw, it would not have been fair," Pereira said.

"They had two chances, and they scored. But we had enough time and the game was there. Even the rain played against us!"

At the Stade Pierre-Mauroy, Watkins netted for the first time in eight games in all competitions to put Villa on track for a place in the quarterfinals.

The England international's second-half goal was only his ninth in a disappointing personal campaign, with just two in his last 13 matches. He made the breakthrough in the 61st minute, meeting Emiliano Buendia's flick on with a looping header over Lille keeper Berke Ozer.

Thanks to Watkins, Unai Emery's side, who beat Lille in the 2024 UEFA Conference League quarterfinals, will head into the second leg at Villa Park as favourites to advance.

Villa have won eight of their nine Europa games this season as they step up their bid to end a 30-year trophy drought.

Emery's men had stumbled in recent weeks, suffering a chastening defeat at bottom of the table Wolves and a 4-1 thrashing by Chelsea.

But beating Lille was a major boost before a crucial clash at Manchester United on Sunday in the race to qualify for the Champions League. It was also a landmark 100th victory for Emery as Villa boss.

"Ollie is working and being consistent with his task," Emery said.

"The most important thing is how we played a serious match.

"We know how difficult it is with the atmosphere they have here."

Results (last-16, first leg): Bologna: 1 (Bernardeschi 50th) drew with Roma: 1 (Pellegrini 71st); Lille: 0 lt to Aston Villa: 1 (Watkins 61st); Panathinaikos: 1 (Taborda 88th) bt Real Betis: 0; Stuttgart: 1 (Undav 40th) lt to Porto: 2 (Moffi 21st, Rodrigo Mora 27th); Celta Vigo: 1 (Rueda 25th) drew with Lyon: 1 (Endrick 87th); Ferencvaros: 2 (Kanichowsky 32nd, Joseph 69th) bt Braga: 0; Genk: 1 (El Ouahdi 24th) bt Freiburg: 0; Nottingham Forest: 0 lt Midtjylland: 1 (Cho 80th).

Alcaraz sets up Medvedev semis

Sabalenka marches on; Rybakina ousts Pegula in quarters

INDIAN WELLS, AFP

Carlos Alcaraz extended his unbeaten season and got revenge over Cameron Norrie on Thursday to reach the semifinals at Indian Wells for a fifth straight year.

The world No. 1 from Spain emerged from a see-saw battle with 29th-ranked Norrie with a 6-3, 6-4 victory.

He will meet Russian Daniil Medvedev, who pushed his own ATP winning streak to eight matches with a 6-1, 7-5 victory over defending champion Jack Draper.

World No. 2 Jannik Sinner powered past Learner Tien 6-1, 6-2 to line up a semifinal with fourth-ranked Alexander Zverev, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over Arthur Fils. Alcaraz, 22, became the youngest player to complete a career Grand Slam with his victory in the Australian Open and followed up with a title in Qatar.

He pushed his 2026 season record to 16-0 with the win over Norrie, who beat him in the Paris Masters in November.

Hindrance call

Medvedev then secured the lone break of the second to lead 6-5.

Draper was irked early in that 11th game when the chair umpire, queried by Medvedev, ruled the Briton had caused a hindrance with a raised arm gesture during a point. Medvedev said he was distracted and the umpire told him it could go to video review, and subsequently awarded the Russian the point. In the other half of the draw, Sinner kept his bid for a first Indian Wells title on track with a straightforward victory over American Tien.

Zverev reached the Indian Wells semifinals for the first time with a similarly comfortable victory over France's Fils.

Svitolina ousts Swiatek

Elina Svitolina sent two-time champion Iga Swiatek spinning out at Indian Wells on Thursday to line up a semi-final meeting with Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina.

Ukrainian Svitolina surged home to beat world No. 2 Swiatek 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 while Rybakina thwarted Jessica Pegula's comeback bid in a 6-1, 7-6 (4) victory over the American.

Elena Rybakina returns during her quarterfinal victory over Jessica Pegula in the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells. IMAGN IMAGES

Armand Duplantis

Duplantis soars to world record no. 15

UPPSALA (SWEDEN), AFP: Armand Duplantis broke the pole vault world record on Thursday for the 15th time at the meet that bears his name in Uppsala, Sweden, clearing 6.31 meters on his first attempt.

The 26-year-old Swede broke the record he has owned since clearing 6.17m in 2020.

Duplantis only took four vaults at the indoor event in his adopted home town.

After clearing 5.65m, 5.90m and then 6.08m, all on his first attempts, he asked for the bar to be lifted 23cm to a world-record height.

He immediately soared over to end his evening's work.

It was the second time Duplantis has broken the world record in Sweden.

Preeti sprints to another gold

NEW DELHI, PTI: Double Paris Paralympics medallist Preeti Pal exploded off the blocks with unrelenting grit to storm to an emphatic victory in the women's 200m, her commanding run capping a spectacular campaign for India at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix here on Friday.

The hosts completed an overwhelming domination by amassing a staggering 208 medals -- an unprecedented haul partially due to relatively sparse international participation, with their supremacy reflected in 75 gold, 69 silver, and 64 bronze.

Preeti was the toast of the final day as she added to her 100m gold from the previous day by storming to victory in the 200m (T35-T37) with a commanding time of 30.26 seconds.

The 25-year-old from Meerut finished well ahead of Russia's Karina Machulskaia, who claimed silver in 32.22 seconds, while India's Bina Shambhubha rounded out the podium with bronze in 32.35 seconds.

Russia secured second place with 35 medals (15 gold, 14 silver, 6 bronze), while Bosnia and Herzegovina finished third with three medals (1 gold, 2 silver).

Diksha Dagar

Diksha, Vani, Avani make the cut at Aus Open

ADELAIDE, PTI: Diksha Dagar, Vani Kapoor and Avani Prashanth made the halfway cut at the Women's Australian Open, while two other Indians, Hitaashee Bakshi and Pranavi Urs missed the cut here on Friday.

Diksha, who was the top Indian last week also, shot 2-over 74 and was now 2-over for two rounds.

Vani added 2-over 74 to her first round 72. She was also 2-over for 36 holes and the duo was tied-31st.

Avani, who missed the cut in her last two starts, shot 77 on the first day and added 72 to make the cut on the line at 5-over.

She was tied-60th, as 67 players made the cut.

Hitaashee (77-74) and Pranavi (78-75) missed the cut.

Bhullar wins

Gaganjeet Bhullar returned a bogey-free four-under 68 in the final round to successfully defend his title at the IGPL Invitational Chandigarh, rallying from four shots behind to register his fourth IGPL win.

Bhullar, who shot 68 and 69 in the first two rounds, signed off with another 68, highlighted by three birdies in four holes between the 13th and 16th on the back nine. His three-day total of 11-under featured just one bogey.

Satwik's shoulder pain forces Indian pair to pull out

BASEL, PTI: Top-seeded Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty pulled out of the Swiss Open here on Friday ahead of its quarterfinal clash after a shoulder issue troubled the former.

Rankireddy and Shetty were scheduled to clash with Denmark's Christian Faust Kjaer and Rasmus Kjaer in the last-eight pairs stage of the Super 300 badminton tournament.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (left) and Chirag Shetty.

The 25-year-old from Amalapuram, known for one of the fastest smashes in world badminton, has often struggled with his right shoulder.

In 2023, Rankireddy set a Guinness World Record for the fastest smash in badminton, clocking 565 km/h.

"It is an old injury, hopefully he can recover fast. This will take a week at least," Malaysian coach Tan Kim Her told PTI.

The injury is understood to be an overuse issue rather than a fresh trauma, a common challenge for elite athletes competing at high intensity.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)
CORRIGENDUM - III

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Modification to Audio & Video Studio at Main Building, Main Campus, URSC – Civil Work including Acoustic & Lighting Design.
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/34/2025-26 dated: 16/01/2026
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 13.28 Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended upto 16.30 hrs on 23/03/2026
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 26/03/2026
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.31 hrs on 26/03/2026

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.

Sd/-,
Group Director, C & MG, URSC

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Notification No.CE/Nadakacheri/KHB/2025-26/SE0356 to KHB/2025-25/SE0358 Dated:12.03.2026

Karnataka Housing Board has Invited tender through KPP Portal for appointment of Architectural Engineering Firm (AEF) for the work of, Proposed Construction of Nadakacheri Office Building for Revenue Department at Various Places.

Last date for Submission of bid : 27.03.2026 up to at 4PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/6224/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

Dept of Agriculture Marketing
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, BAILHONGAL.
DIST: BELAGAVI STATE : KARNATAKA.
Email-apmcbailhongal@gmail.com, Pho:08288-233136

Sl No: APMC/BLH/DEV/RIDF-31/516(E) /2025-26 DATE: 12 /03/2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

1.The Office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Bailhongal, invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPPP Portal Standard Tender Document KW-4, 2.Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website https://kppp. karnataka. gov.in , 3.Tenders must be accompanied by earnest money deposit which will paid online through e-Procurement portal as mentioned. 4.Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) within the date and time published in e-procurement portal. 5.Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

TABLE

Sl No:1:Name of work:Construction of CC Roads, Drains and CC Parking, Compound wall & Providing electrification at Bailhongala APMC under NABARD RIDF-31 Scheme (APMC/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT853), Approximate valu of work (in Rs.): 4,15,92,796.00 (EXCLUSIVE OF GST), Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.):6,24,000.00, Tender Processing Fee (In Rs.):As per KPPP Portal, Period of completion (Excluding Monsoon):6 Months (Excluding monsoon), Eligible Class of Contractor:As per KW-4 Eligible.

Time Table for Tender Procedure

1:Pre bid meeting:02/04/2026 at 11.00 AM in APMC Office Bailhongal, 2:Details regarding Tender:08/04/2026 at 4.30 PM in APMC Office Bailhongal, 3:Last Date & Time for submit the Tender:16/04/2026 up to 4.00 PM, 4:Date & Time for opening the Technical bid:18/04/2026 4.30 PM, 5:Date & Time for opening the Financial bid:28/04/2026 4.00 PM.

NOTE: a) The E.M.D. should be paid on-line electronically, b) The tender processing fees shall be payable through e-procurement platform. c) GST shall be paid to the tendered, amount as per Govt. letter No. PWD 65 RDF 2017, dated: 11.10.2018

Sd/-(S. S. Aralikatti)
SECRETARY
APMC BAILHONGAL

Sd/- (Hanamant Shirahatti)
SECRETARY
APMC BAILHONGAL

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2076/KSMCA/2025-26

Don't Miss
Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

DECCAN HERALD

BIG PICTURE
Into the world of bhajan clubbing.

GENDER
How do we cope with the death of loved ones?

ART & PURSUITS
Take a tour of the Grand Egyptian Museum!

TRAVEL
Learning 'tehzeeb' in Lucknow.

WELLNESS
How to keep your memory sharp

FOOD & DRINK
The allure of 'zero-proof' cocktails.

Follow Us

Government of Karnataka
District Health and Family Welfare Office, DC Office Haveri
Email : ncdhaveri@gmail.com Ph : 08375-232210
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **DHFWS/2024-25/IND2241/CALL-2 Dt : 12-03-2026**

Tender Schedule

• Tender Reference Number	DHFWS/2024-25/IND2241/CALL-2
• Date of publishing Tender Document on e-Procurement platform	**13-03-2026** onwards.
• Last date for submission of tenders	**20-03-2026** at 4.00 pm.
• Date and time of opening of Technical bids	**21-03-2026** at 4.30 pm.
• Date and time of opening of Financial bids	Will intimate later
• Date and time of Sample submission	Will intimate later
• Total Tender Value	Rs. **50,62,000**
• Place of opening of bids	District & Health & Family Welfare Office , Haveri
• Address for communication	District & Health & Family Welfare Office, District Surveillance Office, Haveri Phone No : 08375-297359

ಸಹಿ/– ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಮಿತಿ
ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸರ್ವೇಕ್ಷಣಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹಾವೇರಿ.

DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/808/2025-26

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
ESTATE OFFICE, GKVK, BENGALURU-560 065

NO. EO/TN/28/2025-26, DATED: 09.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW3, KW2 & KW1 from the registered KPWD/PWD/Contractors for the Sl. No.1 to 10. The details of the notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.

The above works are under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system is to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.

The Blank Tender Documents can be down loaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Last date and time for uploading is **18-03-2026 upto 4.00 P.M**. The Technical Bid will be opened on **20-03-2026 at 10.30 A.M.** The Financial Bid will be opened on **23-03-2026 at 10.30 A.M.** For more details please contact e-portal help desk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com** or **8046010000/8068948777** on working days and this office during working hour, Phone No.080-23332765.

DIPR/CP/6245/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/-
Estate Officer

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka
4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041
registrar@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601928

No. RGUHSB/LIB/GEN/7/2026 (135304) Date: 13/03/2026

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Remote Access Technology and Research Solution for Accessing E-Resources for Helinet to RGUHS. More details on the Service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

Tender No. RGUHSK/2025-26/IND0030/Call-2

1	Tender document available for downloaded	13/03/2026 12:28 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	23/03/2026 15:00 Hrs.
3	Last date for Receipt of Tender	27/03/2026 17:30 Hrs.
4	Opening of Technical Bid	30/03/2026 12:30 Hrs.
5	Opening of Financial Bid	01/04/2026 11:30 Hrs.
6	Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/6234/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/-
Registrar

IN BRIEF

Chandasi to lead K'taka

▸ Captain Chandasi Krishnamurthy and deputy Niki Prasad will spearhead Karnataka's challenge in the knockouts of the BCCI Under-23 Women's One Day Trophy to be held in Ranchi from March 18, reports DHNS.

Karnataka squad: Chandasi Krishnamurthy (capt), Niki Prasad (vice-captain), Mithila Vinod, Saloni P, Namitha D' Souza, Pooja Kumari M, Prerana GR, Shreya S Chavan, Liyanka Shetty, Krishika Reddy, Vandita K Rao, Rachitha Hatwar (WK), Karnika Karthick, Soumya Verma (WK), BG Tejashwini. **Coach:** Rajshekar Shanbal, Chandu V. **Manager:** Jahnavi SK. **Physiotherapist:** Pooja S. **Strength & Conditioning Coach:** Hithaishi B.

State TT teams named

▸ Karnataka State Table Tennis Association has named five-member team each in men's and women's sections to take part in the 87th Senior National & Inter-state championships to be held in Indore from March 14-22.

Men's team: Aakash KJ, Abhinav K Murthy, Yeshwanth P, Atharva Nawarange, Sanjay Madhavan.

Women's team: Sahana Murthy, Himanshi Chowdhary, Trupti Purohit, Tanishka Kalabhairav, Kushi V.

Manager cum coach: Anirbhan Tarafdar.

NZ coaches for PSL

▸ New Zealand men's team assistant coaches Jacob Oram and Luke Ronchi have been granted leave by the country's cricket board (NZC) to skip Black Caps' upcoming T20I series against South Africa and instead take up coaching assignments with Islamabad United in the Pakistan Super League, reports PTI from Wellington.

Ronchi, returns in the role as head coach with Oram confirmed as one of his assistants.

Samrat, Suruchi added to TOPS

▸ Rising pistol shooters Samrat Rana and Suruchi Singh, Asian gold-winning long-distance runner Gulveer Singh and world champion para-shuttler Pramod Bhagat are among eight athletes who have been added to the Target Olympic Podium Scheme's (TOPS) Core group following a recent assessment of performances, reports PTI.

Badminton star H S Prannoy, former Asian gold-winning rifle shooter Divyansh Singh Panwar and wrestler Deepak Punia were among the major names dropped.

◆ ON TV ◆

HOCKEY

Women's WC Qualifiers: Scotland vs Italy **(3rd-4th place, 5:15 pm)**, India vs England **(final, 7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Sunderland vs Brighton & Hove Albion, Burnley vs Bournemouth **(8:30 pm)**, Arsenal vs Everton, Chelsea vs Newcastle United **(11 pm)**, West Ham United vs Manchester City **(1:30 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Girona vs Athletic Club **(6:30 pm)**, Atletico Madrid vs Getafe CF **(8:45 pm)**, Real Oviedo vs Valencia CF **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

ISL: East Bengal vs Kerala Blasters **(5 pm)**, Bengaluru FC vs Mohun Bagan **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

IFL: Gokulam Kerala FC vs Sreenidi Deccan FC **(4 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

BADMINTON

Swiss Open: Semifinals **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

MOTORSPORT

Formula 1: Chinese GP **(sprint race: 8:30 am; qualifying: 12:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

Indian Wells: Semifinal **(5:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

GOLF

The Players Championship: Day 3 **(5:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

HOCKEY WC QUALIFIERS

India punch final ticket

Manisha's strike helps hosts beat Italy and set up summit clash vs England

HYDERABAD, PTI

India, capitalising on a precise third-quarter penalty-corner strike from Manisha Chauhan, edged past Italy 1-0 in a tense semifinal to set up a highly anticipated title clash with England in the FIH Women's World Cup Qualifiers here on Friday.

Midfielder Manisha netted the decisive goal in the 40th minute after a fiercely contested first quarter, with both sides locked in a tight battle, relentlessly vying for possession.

India, having already secured a spot in the World Cup to be jointly hosted by the Netherlands and Belgium from August 15 to 30 this year, began assertively with a couple of powerful circle entries, but Italy quickly responded, mounting aggressive attacks and creating several promising goal-scoring opportunities.

However, India seized the momentum in the second quarter, with the hosts exploiting sharp flank runs, attacking in numbers, and making key circle entries to assert control over the game.

In the 18th minute, India won the first penalty corner of the game but Navneet Kaur's shot at goal was stopped well by Italian goalkeeper Lucia Ines Caruso. In the 27th minute, the hosts were awarded another penalty corner as India played out an interesting variation.

The ball was played back to the injector, captain Salima Tete, but her shot was stopped on the line by Italy's last defender, denying them a goal. In the 29th minute, India had another opportunity to score through a penalty corner but Navneet's shot went off target.

In the early minutes of the second half, Italy launched a strong attack on goal as Emilia Munitis was through on goal but India's goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam came out and made a crucial save.

In the 40th minute, India were awarded yet another penalty corner and this time they successfully converted it to break the deadlock. Manisha delivered a powerful dragflick down the middle that pierced through the Italian defence and found the net. India earned two early penalty corners in the final quarter in a bid to extend their lead, but Italy held firm with resolute defending.

Italy gave it their all in the final minutes of the match and won a crucial penalty corner in the 59th minute but India managed to deny their opposition the equaliser and emerged victorious.

Earlier, England defeated Scotland 2-0 in the other semifinal at the GMC Balayogi Hockey Ground.

Result: India: 1 (Manisha 40th) bt Italy: 0.

India sealed a hard-fought 1-0 win over Italy in the Women's World Cup Qualifiers to book their place in the final in Hyderabad on Friday. HI MEDIA

A slice of action from the semifinal between India and Italy in the Women's World Cup Qualifiers in Hyderabad on Friday. HI MEDIA

Triple jumpers in spotlight at Open Jumps

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

The two-day National Open Jump Competition, the first national-level track and field event in Bengaluru for the crucial 2026 season, will see the men's triple jump events take centre stage with all key names in long jump events missing.

Men's Triple jump national record holder Praveen Chithravel (17.37 metre) and 2022 Commonwealth Games silver medallist Abdulla Aboobacker among others will compete in the absence of gold medallist Eldhose Paul, who is recuperating after a tricky knee surgery.

In long jump, key names such as Shaili Singh, Ancy Sojan, Jeswin Aldrin have already skipped the event and now star attraction M Sreeshankar has now also joined the list as the 26-year-old Kerala athlete pulled out at the last minute due to a viral fever.

The 2022 Asian Games and Commonwealth Games silver medallist took the decision on Friday and will now be aiming to compete in the Indian Athletic Series 1 in Bengaluru on April 4. The bulk of the absentees are also expected to show up for the same event with their berths for the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games at stake.

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) earlier made their intentions clear on selection policy, stating stiff qualifying standards for July-August's CWG, where women's long jumpers will have to go better than the long-standing national record of 6.83 metres while men will have to jump 8.05m at least. For September-October's Asiad, the qualification standards are lowered at 6.48 and 7.91 respectively.

It's also worth noting that the AFI also made it clear that taking part in May's Federation Cup (in Ranchi) and June's Inter-States (in Bhubaneswar) would be crucial in selection, while mandating participation in at least three other domestic events, including one state championship.

That may explain the big list of participation in both men's and women's long jump events with 24 and 16 athletes respectively, including at least seven entrants from Karnataka. Arya S will be among the key local names as he will look to improve on his personal best of 7.89 from three seasons ago.

In the men's triple jump, Praveen and Abdulla (personal best 17.19) are expected to meet Asiad qualification mark of 16.28 without much fuss but may have to work hard to breach the CWG's standard of 16.89 this early in the season.

Men's triple jump national record holder Praveen Chithravel is one of the main attractions in the depleted field at the Open National Jumps meet. DH FILE PHOTO

Big Bagan test for Bengaluru FC

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

The moment of truth has arrived for Bengaluru FC in the ongoing ISL as the last year's runners-up face their nemesis and reigning champions Mohun Bagan at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday.

The outcome against the table-toppers, who are demolising any force in their way, will answer the question if coach Renedy Singh-helmed side is a title contender or a pretender.

Placed sixth with seven points in four matches, Bengaluru FC have not convinced many in their bid for a second ISL title. Last week's scrappy 2-1 victory over bottom-placed Mohammedan SC only added further questions than answers.

While the first-half offensive show with Sunil Chhetri returning to the line-up was a big positive, the defensive struggles in the second half, as admitted by the head coach, made all the worries apparent as the team somehow held on to its lead from the first half.

Worryingly, all of the seven points from five games for them came against clubs currently ranked below them and a formidable force like Bagan, who have won all of their four matches by at least a two-goal margin, won't offer many freebies.

While almost all of the ISL clubs were hit badly by the period of turmoil in Indian football, the cash-rich MBSG seems to be left unscathed with all of their big foreign names and national players from last season still in the squad.

Such is the depth of the team that national team players like Sahal Abdul Samad, Manvir Singh, Asish Rai among others are starting from the bench.

However, it's the attack-all-cost approach of their coach of big repute Sergio Lobera -- led by the Aussie attacking trifecta of Jason Cummings, Dimitri Petratos and Jamie Maclaren -- that will be the biggest headache of coach Renedy when the match kicks off.

Maclaren looks too hot to handle at this point for BFC defence as the 32-year-old striker has scored in all matches so far, including a quarter of goals against Odisha FC in 5-1 mauling last week.

BFC will still take solace from the fact that MBSG are also humans and haven't faced a top-six team in their campaign yet. Their new wide forward Ashique Kuruniyan, whom they signed from their very rival last off-season, is all pumped up after scoring his debut Bengaluru goal last week.

"I'm very excited to play against Mohun Bagan because I've spent a few good years with them, and after all, they are my friends. So yes, I'm pumped to play against Mohun Bagan here in Bengaluru," said the 28-year-old technically-gifted winger.

Bengaluru FC's Ashique Kuruniyan (right) and Namgyal Bhutia vie for the ball as coach Renedy Singh watches on during a training session in Bengaluru on Friday. BFC

LIVE 7:30 PM STAR SPORTS

Mercedes' Russell secures first career sprint pole

SHANGHAI, REUTERS : Formula One championship leader George Russell **(in pic)** put Mercedes on pole position for the first sprint race of the season in China on Friday in a provisional front row lockout with team-mate Kimi Antonelli.

Russell led every phase of the session at the Shanghai circuit to take his first career sprint pole in a time of one minute, 31.520 seconds. Antonelli was 0.289 slower.

McLaren's Lando Norris was third fastest but the Briton could move up to the front row with Antonelli under investigation and facing a possible grid drop for allegedly impeding the reigning world champion in the second phase.

Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton, who started the 100km race on pole in China last year, was fourth fastest ahead of McLaren's Oscar Piastri and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

The race on Saturday brings eight points to the winner with the top eight scoring. The main Grand Prix is on Sunday. "The car has been feeling amazing," said Russell, winner of the Australian season-opener last weekend. "We knew after Melbourne we had a really good car, the engine is performing really well, and today it was a real joy to drive. It felt really quick and that was pretty cool, very different to Melbourne."

Russell was the third successive British sprint pole-sitter in Shanghai after Norris in 2024 and Hamilton in 2025.

He had also been fastest in the day's sole practice session, ahead of Antonelli, with Mercedes comfortably ahead of the rest. Pierre Gasly was seventh fastest for Renault-owned Alpine but under investigation for apparently impeding Red Bull's four-times world champion Max Verstappen, who ended up eighth.

Mohith's knock in vain as Bhagirath make it to semis

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mohith BA's near-century effort went in vain as Bhagirath Group coasted to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Titan Company Limited Cricket Club in a quarterfinal of the KSCA Group II, II Division league cum knockout tournament.

LOCAL CRICKET

Riding Mohith's unbeaten 97 (61b, 7x4, 3x6), Titan reached 167/4 in 20 overs. Bhagirathi, however, made short work of the target reaching it in 17.5 overs with Luvnith Sisodia (62), Aarav (37 n.o.) and Shaun Joseph (44 n.o.) making meaty contributiions.

In another game, riding on Anirudh Srinivas' unbeaten fifty and a three-wicket haul M Chitti Babu, BEL Sports Club edged South Railway Institute, Mysore by 16 runs to advance.

Continental Automotive Cricket Club beat Bosch Sports Club while Bangalore while Infosys Cricket Club overcame Bangalore Telephones Cricket Club to complete the semifinals line-up.

Quarterfinals (At IAF): Titan Company Limited Cricket Club: 167/4 in 20 overs (Mohith BA 97 n.o., Pavan Kumar A 32; M Kranthi Kumar 2-21) lt to Bhagirathi Group: 171/2 in 17.5 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 62, Aarav Mahesh 37 n.o., Shaun Joseph 44 n.o.).

At IAF: Bosch Sports Club, Bangalore: 146/3 in 20 overs (Samarth Srinivas 61, Sharath Srinivas 59 n.o.) lt to Continental Automotive Cricket Club: 147/4 in 19 overs (Krishnamurthy T 27, Thejas L 36, Rishab Krish 29, Karthik J 28 n.o.).

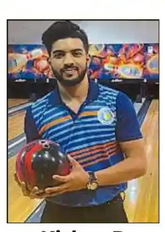
At BEL: BEL Sports Club: 156/9 in 20 overs (Anirudh Srinivas 54 n.o., Nikhilesh Thakur 41; Dhakshath P 3-30, Surendra Rathore 2-12) bt South Railway Institute, Mysore: 140/7 in 20 overs (Yashwanth J 42, Surendra Rathore 39; M Chitti Babu 3-26).

At BEL: Infosys Cricket Club: 159/7 in 20 overs (Vineeth B 59; Yashwantha 3-30, Vijay Bhosale 2-35) bt Bangalore Telephones Cricket Club: 108/9 in 20 overs (Rakshith K 50; Vineeth B 2-25, Pradyumna Srivatsa 2-8).

Karnataka's Kishan emerges leader after Round 2

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former National Champion Kishan R of Karnataka has emerged as leader in the Men's Division at the end of Round 2 of the ARC 34th National Tenpin Bowling Championships here.

Delivering a commanding performance, Kishan started his second block of six games on the Medium oil condition, with an impressive 246. He maintained remarkable consistency across the block with scores of 226, 227, 225, and 246 in the next four games.



Kishan R

With score of 199 in Game 6, Kishan finished Round 2 with a cumulative pinfall of 5136 across 24 games, topping the leaderboard with a strong 214.00 average.

Defending Champion Akaash Ashok Kumar climbed to second position with a total pinfall of 4910 and trailing the leader Kishan R by 226 pins.

Delhi's Dhruv Sarda (4895 pins) and West Bengal's Beni Gopal Lahoti (4810 pins) are in 3rd and 4th positions respectively.

Former National Champion Vijay Punjabi delivered a notable performance during the second block of 6 games in Round 2. He posted an impressive total pinfall of 1335 and an average of 222.5 and moving to 5th position. The 13-year-old Anirudhan Sanjeevi (TN) missed the top 16 cut to Round 3 by 9 pins. He opened his last frame of the last game which proved him costly.

Central Excise & Customs win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Darshan MB stood out with his fifer in a high-scoring T20 match, an effort that titled the contest in favour Central Excise & Customs against AGO Recreation Club in the KSCA Group II, I Division league cum knockout tournament here.

Brief scores: Central Excise & Customs: 225/4 in 20 overs (Snehal Kauthankar 84, Niranjan 92, Samarth R 30; Sunil Kumar DH 2-22) bt AGO Recreation Club: 182/8 in 20 overs (Nikin Jose SJ 35, Manoj Bhandage 67; Darshan MB 5-30).

HAL Sports Club: 108/9 in 20 overs (Sumukha Prasad S 28; Vikas Chanalia 2-24, Vikas Doddamani 2-20, Abhishek HR 2-31, Sachin R Gankal 2-14) lt to DELL Cricket Club: 114/6 in 14.2 overs (Gajjala Kumar 3-33).

State Bank Of India: 150/8 in 20 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 35; Pradeep T 3-31, Anand Doddamani 2-22) lt to RWF Sports Association: 156/2 in 16.2 overs (Sagar Solanki 63, Rohan Patil 58 n.o.).

Former AIFF general secretary Das no more

NEW DELHI, PTI

Veteran administrator and former All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das, who played a significant role in organising the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup in India, died here on Friday.

Das was 65. He held the position of AIFF general secretary for 12 years before resigning in 2022 on health grounds.

Before entering football administration in 2010, Das had served as Chief Financial Officer of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and International Management Group (IMG) India. He breathed his last at a private hospital in the capital, according to Shaji Prabhakaran, another long-time football administrator who succeeded Das as the AIFF's full-time secretary general in 2022 after former I-League CEO Sunando Dhar served as the acting GS for a brief while.

Kushal Das

"Former AIFF General Secretary Kushal Das passed away this morning at a private hospital in Delhi. Sending my deepest sympathies and prayers to his family and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time. Om Shanti," Prabhakaran wrote on his 'X' handle.

During his tenure, the Indian national team qualified for three AFC Asian Cup tournaments besides the country hosting the prestigious FIFA U-17 World Cup for the first time in 2017, which he described as "game changer" for Indian football at the time.

The event set a record for the most-attended FIFA youth World Cup in history. He also secured hosting rights for the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup and the 2022 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. Das also played a key role in bringing Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) as a marketing partner of AIFF in 2010, which led to the launch of the Indian Super League (ISL). He often credited this partnership with saving the AIFF from financial crisis after previous broadcasters moved on.

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TIME FOR UGADI SHOPPING

DEEPA NATARAJAN LOBO

With Ugadi just around the corner, there is a lot of excitement brewing up in the malls and high streets.

Clothing outlets get busy now with everyone looking for something festive - silk sarees, breezy kurtas or adorable ethnic wear for the children. Faisal Mahmood, partner at an ethnic wear store, says, "Traditional pieces like sarees with zari work and festive salwar suits are always popular. Many younger shoppers are choosing Indo-Western styles, shararas, palazzos and contemporary festive wear too".

According Ashwin Mandoth, a musician, Ugadi is always a good time to refresh both his wardrobe and music gear. "I'm planning to buy a few silk shirts, not only for the festival but also for the performances I have lined up this summer. I will also invest in new musical equipment," he says.

Hrish Thota, a marketing manager, plans to purchase a TV and ethnic wear for the day.

Young parents choose traditional outfits for their kids. "I plan to buy pavadai material and get it stitched for my daughter Tamanvi," says Srujana K.

At jewellery showrooms, festive shoppers are making a beeline for both traditional gold pieces and contemporary silver designs. Aswini Oza, partner at a jewellery brand, says the overlap of the festive and wedding seasons is bringing many customers to the stores.

Intimate wellness is about a better quality of life

Healthcare is truly holistic when intimate health is a part of overall health, say **Dr Devika Gunasheela**, Managing Director and **Dr Ashwini M**, Senior Consultant, **Gunasheela Surgical and Maternity Hospital**

Even as conversations around women's health continue to expand, one area that has long remained under-discussed is intimate wellness, a dimension of healthcare that goes beyond reproduction to include comfort, confidence and sexual well-being.

At Gunasheela fertility Centre, the newly-introduced Women's Intimate Wellness Centre reflects a growing shift in how modern gynaecology approaches women's health. The centre focuses on both functional and aesthetic concerns affecting the vaginal and pelvic region, recognising that these issues can significantly influence a woman's quality of life. These concerns are far more common than most women realise, yet many hesitate to discuss them openly.

One of the most common issues seen in clinical practice is vaginal laxity following childbirth. Natural delivery can stretch vaginal tissues and weaken pelvic support structures, sometimes affecting comfort, sensation and sexual satisfaction. With advances in medical technology, restorative procedures and laser-based therapies can now help improve tissue strength and elasticity, restoring both function and confidence.

External anatomy can also be a source of discomfort for some women. In certain cases, the inner labial folds may be naturally enlarged or elongated, leading to irritation, difficulty with physical activities or self-consciousness about appearance. Procedures such as labioplasty offer a safe option to reshape excess tissue, helping women feel more comfortable both physically and emotionally.

Intimate wellness care also increasingly includes treatments aimed at improving sexual health and pleasure. Modern therapies such as platelet-rich plasma (PRP) treatments and laser-based procedures can enhance tissue regeneration, improve lubrication and address discomfort during intimacy.

Another procedure sometimes requested by women is hymen restoration. Doctors emphasise that such decisions are deeply personal and may be influenced by cultural, emotional or individual factors. In such situations, the role of the doctor is to provide informed counselling and ensure the women can make choices about their bodies in a safe and confidential environment.

Importantly, many of these procedures are now minimally-invasive and performed as outpatient treatments, allowing women to return quickly to their daily routines while benefiting from modern medical care.

As awareness grows, specialists believe intimate wellness will become an increasingly important part of holistic women's healthcare. By addressing both functional concerns and issues related to body confidence, the field reflects a broader shift towards recognising that women's well-being includes not only reproductive health but also comfort, dignity and self-confidence at every stage of life.

Gunasheela WOMEN'S INTIMATE WELLNESS CENTRE
Aesthetic, Function & Restorative Care for Women

Grammy-nominated blues powerhouse Sugaray Rayford makes his India debut

Long before he became one of the most powerful voices in contemporary blues, Sugaray Rayford was a young boy singing in church, discovering a voice that would one day carry the power, pain and joy at the heart of the blues.

There are singers who perform the blues, and then there are those who seem to embody it. When the commanding voice of Sugaray Rayford fills a room, it carries the echoes of community churches, hard-lived experience and the enduring spirit of a musical tradition that refuses to fade. Blu Note with Sugaray Rayford, presented by the Prestige Centre for Performing Arts (PCPA) on Saturday March 28, introduces Indian audiences to one of the most electrifying voices in contemporary blues for the first time. The show marks Rayford's debut performance in India, and forms part of his World Kindness Tour 2026, a journey that blends powerful music with a message of connection and empathy across cultures. The evening is presented in collaboration with the National Centre for the Performing Arts Mumbai, where Rayford and his band will also perform the following evening.

Rayford's journey to international acclaim began in a church. Born in Smith County, Texas, he sang gospel as a child, developing the deep, resonant voice that would later become his signature. Life took him through tough times before music claimed centre-stage, and those lived experiences now resonate in every performance. Growing up, he was deeply influenced by blues legends such as B.B. King, Bobby "Blue" Bland and Robert Johnson, artists who shaped the sound and spirit of the genre.

His songs draw from the emotional core of blues, soul and gospel traditions, delivered with a voice that critics have described as both thunderous and deeply expressive. Over the past decade, Rayford has emerged as one of the most compelling figures in modern blues, earning global recognition and a Grammy nomination for his album 'Somebody Save Me'.

For this tour, Rayford is joined by a dynamic band that brings both energy and musical finesse to the stage. The ensemble features guitar prodigy Anthony Cullins, Drake "Munkihaid" Shining on keyboards, Allen Markel on bass, Derrick "DJ" Martin Jr. on saxophone, Julian "JuJu" Davis on trumpet and Sky Garcia on drums.

Rayford often speaks about music as something that should both move and uplift listeners, blending an old-school blues sensibility with a contemporary voice. Towering in stature and stage presence alike, he is often described as a "big man with a bigger heart", yet it is the emotional honesty of his performances that leaves the most lasting impression.

For audiences in Bengaluru, this performance promises more than just a concert - it is a rare chance to witness an artist whose voice carries the past, present and future of the blues in a single, unforgettable night.

Blu Note with Sugaray Rayford
Venue: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2026
Time: 7.30 pm
Tickets on bookmyshow

Regular screening detects kidney disease early

Bangalore Hospitals has the state-of-the-art preventive care technology with holistic care to identify potential issues early for best treatment outcomes

Understanding your body helps you protect it

Preventive care helps you establish baseline health values and track them over time to identify potential issues early, says **Dr Lahari Surapaneni**, Consultant Plastic Surgeon and CEO, **Bangalore Hospitals**

Dr Lahari Surapaneni
Consultant Plastic Surgeon and CEO
Bangalore Hospitals

Even as we observe World Kidney Day, it is worth remembering that while there are many 'days' dedicated to individual organs, health itself is one interconnected system. At Bangalore Hospitals, we take a holistic view of the body and strongly advocate preventive screening. Our new-generation 640-slice CT scanner, equipped with advanced imaging technology, can help detect a wide range of conditions such as cardiovascular disease, tumours and kidney abnormalities. However, the real value of such technology lies not only in diagnosing problems when symptoms appear, but also in establishing baseline health values at the right time. Recording these baselines allows doctors to track changes over the years and identify potential issues earlier and more accurately.

It is also important to understand how closely your body systems are linked. For example, the skin is a mirror through which we can look into your body. Changes in skin texture, colour or itching may sometimes be associated with underlying kidney problems, reminding us that no organ works in isolation.

Another growing concern is the increasing use of high-protein supplements, peptides, steroids and IV hydration therapies by otherwise healthy adults in pursuit of fitness or wellness. While some of these may have legitimate uses under medical supervision, excessive or unsupervised use can place unnecessary strain on the kidneys. My advice is simple - before adding anything 'extra' to your health routine, get a preventive screening and establish your baseline health parameters. Understanding your body first is the safest way to protect it.

CKD is the fastest-growing cause of mortality in India

CKD is set to become one of the top five causes of death in India by 2040, cautions **Dr Sanjeev Kumar Hiremath**, Nephrologist and Renal Specialist, **Bangalore Hospitals**

Dr Sanjeev Kumar Hiremath
Nephrologist, Renal Specialist
Bangalore Hospitals

We are observing World Kidney Day on March 12 to spread awareness on kidney diseases. They are treatable if detected early. They are often asymptomatic in the early stages. This means that until about 70–80 percent of kidney function is lost, people will not realise they have the disease.

Around 8–10 percent of adults globally have kidney disease, which is around 850 million people. This makes chronic kidney disease (CKD) one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide. Globally, it contributes to 12 percent of cardiovascular deaths and affects 14.20 per cent of adults. In 2023, around 750 million adults were affected.

In south Asia, around 16 per cent of adults are affected annually. India had the second-highest number of CKD cases globally in 2023, with an estimated 138 million people affected. In south India, 14.80 per cent of adults are affected, and as of 2026, CKD is the fastest-growing cause of mortality in India. The Lancet warns that CKD is on track to become one of the top five causes of death in India by 2040.

This year's theme for World Kidney Day is 'Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet.' People with diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, family history, smoking habit and in advanced age are at higher risk. A new risk multiplier is environmental factors which contribute to kidney disease development and progression. Air pollution, heavy metals, pesticides and extreme heat stress are key concerns. Microplastics, glyphosate herbicides, 'forever chemicals', Bisphenol A (BPA) in food containers and bottles, and heavy metals such as cadmium, arsenic, mercury and lead are linked to kidney damage, tubular injury and renal impairment.

Kidneys are vulnerable because they receive high blood flow and concentrate toxins during filtration. Extreme heat can cause CKD and acute kidney injury, while toxins trigger inflammation and oxidative stress. So, this World Kidney Day, make sure you are aware of how to safeguard your kidneys.

Skin is a window to kidney health

Drink at least three litres of water a day to keep your skin healthy and effective as a barrier, advises **Dr Namratha C Manjunath**, Consultant Dermatologist, Cosmetologist and Dermatosurgeon, **Bangalore Hospitals**

Dr Namrata Manjunath
Dermatologist, Bangalore Hospitals

Adequate water intake is essential to maintain overall health, including the health of your skin. Hydration is crucial as well-hydrated skin acts as a protective barrier against environmental toxins, is elastic and keeps you radiant. Importantly, hydration helps maintain the skin barrier, which keeps pollutants and bacteria out, while preventing trans-epidermal water loss. Adequate hydration also promotes healing by enabling faster skin repair and increasing the turnover of skin cells. It helps prevent acne, inflammation and redness by supporting the body's natural detoxification processes.

Dermatology and kidney health are closely connected because the skin often reflects underlying kidney problems. People with chronic kidney disease (CKD) frequently develop skin changes as toxins and metabolic waste accumulate in the body when the kidneys cannot filter properly.

Common manifestations include dry skin (xerosis), severe itching (uremic pruritus), pale skin due to anaemia, uremic frost (white crystalline deposits on skin from sweat and in advanced stages calciphylaxis (skin necrosis) and nephrogenic skin fibrosis. In some cases, dermatologists may notice these signs before kidney disease is diagnosed. Kidney disease can also affect hair and nails. A classic sign is half-and-half nails where part of the nail appears white and the other brown, and hair may become brittle or thin due to metabolic imbalance.

Drink three litres of water daily and eat water-rich foods such as cucumber, lettuce, celery, tomato, watermelon, strawberry and cantaloupe to keep your skin hydrated. The skin can act as a window to kidney health, so be observant.

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Hair Serum Range
Set Wet Male Grooming Range
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Visit nearest Reliance stores to get your favourite brand at best deals

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd.

SUMMER BYTES

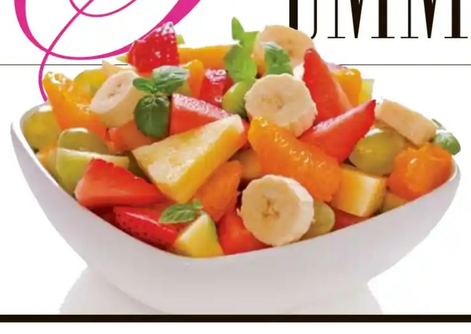
A mix of veggies, fruits, seeds and nuts makes for a healthy snack that gives you the nutrition, hydration and cooling you need this season

EAT RIGHT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

SNACK BETWEEN MEALS

A salad is a healthy snack between meals in the summer. It not only fills you, it also gives you the hydration and nutrition you need in these hot days. It is a far better option than deep fried finger foods. You can include dates and nuts for an energy boost too.



STAY COOL WITH A SALAD

Fresh and lightly-cooked foods such as salads are known to have a cooling effect on the body. Adding a salad and cutting down on spicy and heavy dishes in meals is a good idea for the summer months. Mint and tulasi in a salad add flavour and enhance its cooling properties.

Cool bites for the hot days

Deepa Natarajan Lobo picks out three salads just right for the summer when you wouldn't want to stand in front of a stove

When the summer heat hits a peak, the last thing anyone wants to do is sweat over a hot stove. That's when salads really shine - cool, crisp and easy to put together. With fresh veggies, bursts of fruits, a handful of nuts or grains, maybe some cheese, summer salads have a way of feeling both light and filling.

You can toss them with a punchy dressing, stack them up or just let the ingredients speak for themselves. Here are a few stand-out summer salad recipes.

PIC COURTESY: ATELIER V

Greek Summer Salad

BY HEAD CHEF VEDANT NEWATIA

What you need

- Four large ripe tomatoes, cut into wedges
- One cucumber, sliced
- One each of green bell pepper and red onion, both sliced thin
- 100 gm of feta cheese block
- Half a cup of Kalamata olives
- One teaspoon of dried oregano
- Salt and black pepper to taste

For the dressing

- Four tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
- One tablespoon of red wine vinegar
- A pinch of salt

Preparation

Combine the tomatoes, cucumber, bell pepper and red onion in a large bowl. Add the Kalamata olives and toss gently. Whisk together the olive oil, red wine vinegar and a pinch of salt, then drizzle over the salad and season with salt and black pepper. Place the block of feta cheese on top of the salad.

Finish with a generous sprinkle of dried oregano and serve immediately.

(PIC COURTESY: ATELIER V)

Cherry Bocconcini and Tomato Salad

CORPORATE CHEF SYAMAL RAJU ANNAMNEEDI

What you need

- Two cups of cherry tomatoes, halved
- One cup of cherry bocconcini (small mozzarella balls), drained
- One cup of iceberg lettuce
- Fresh basil leaves – small handful, shredded
- Two tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
- One tablespoon of balsamic glaze (or one teaspoon of balsamic vinegar)
- One tablespoon of basil pesto
- Salt and black pepper to taste

Preparation

Place the halved cherry tomatoes, bocconcini and lettuce in a bowl. Add olive oil and gently toss to coat. Add basil pesto mix lightly. Season with salt, pepper and chilli flakes (optional). Drizzle the balsamic glaze. Add shredded basil just before serving. Serve immediately or chill for 10–15 minutes and serve.

(PIC COURTESY: IRONHILL INDIA)

PIC COURTESY: IRONHILL INDIA

PIC COURTESY: SHANGRI-LA BENGALURU

Caprese Salad

SOUS CHEF CHETAN GOWDA

What you need

- 100 gm of heirloom tomatoes
- 80 gm of toy box tomatoes
- 10 gm of fresh tomato slices
- 100 gm of burrata cheese
- 5 ml of extra virgin olive oil
- 10 ml of balsamic vinegar
- 5 gm each of microgreens, pepper and edible flowers
- 2 gm each of basil and salt

Preparation

Cut the cherry tomatoes in half, leaving the toy box tomatoes intact, and season with salt, pepper, olive oil and chopped basil leaves. Slice the fresh whole tomatoes and season with salt, pepper and olive oil. In a saucepan, combine the 100 ml balsamic vinegar and 10 gm sugar, and reduce to half for about one hour and 20 minutes, or until it thickens and glazes. Plate the tomato and drizzle with the balsamic reduction. Place the entire burrata cheese in the centre of the plate. Top with microgreens, edible flowers and basil leaves to garnish.

(PIC COURTESY: SHANGRI-LA BENGALURU)

Saviour in summer

Salads are just what you need to beat the harsh heat of summer. If the hot days are zapping your energy, tuck into a salad and rejuvenate.

Here's what salads do for you:

Hydration: Many favourite veggies in salads such as tomato, cucumber and lettuce are high in water content and give you that much-needed hydration.

Easy to digest: A salad is lighter than a usual meal and does not tax your digestive system.

Nutritious: The fresh veggies and fruits used in salads are nutrient-rich. They give you the vitamins and electrolytes you need.

Immunity boost: The abundant nutrients and antioxidants in salads boost immunity and help fight common summer infections.

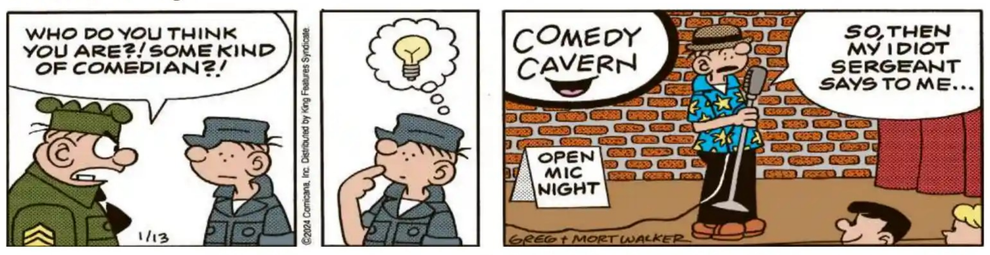
Keeps skin glowing: The rich water content in a salad, along with the nutrition, keeps your skin glowing and free of irritation. Also, the fresh veggies in a salad help remove toxins and keep you refreshed.

Low in calories: Most salads are low in calories, especially if you avoid sugar in them. They help in weight management.

Easy to make: It's an ideal take-away when you are rushed and don't have the time to cook an elaborate meal. A salad does not require long preparation and seasoning, making it a quick, healthy option. You can combine a variety of veggies, fruits, seeds and nuts to make it both tasty and nutritious.

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey


WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?! SOME KIND OF COMEDIAN?!
1/13
COMEDY CAVERN
OPEN MIC NIGHT
SO, THEN MY IDIOT SERGEANT SAYS TO ME...
GREG + MORT WALKER
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

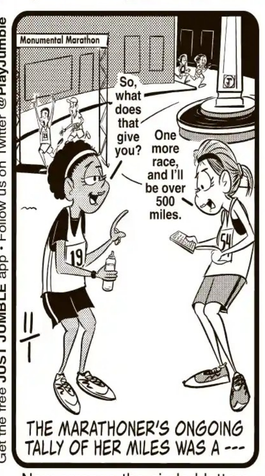
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MSUNI

DEALG

TBNATE

NCORUC


Monumental Marathon
So, what does that give you?
One more race, and I'll be over 500 miles.
THE MARATHONER'S ONGOING TALLY OF HER MILES WAS A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answers

The marathoner's ongoing tally of her miles was a — RUNNING TOTAL

MINUS GLADE BATTEN CONCUR

HITORI-137

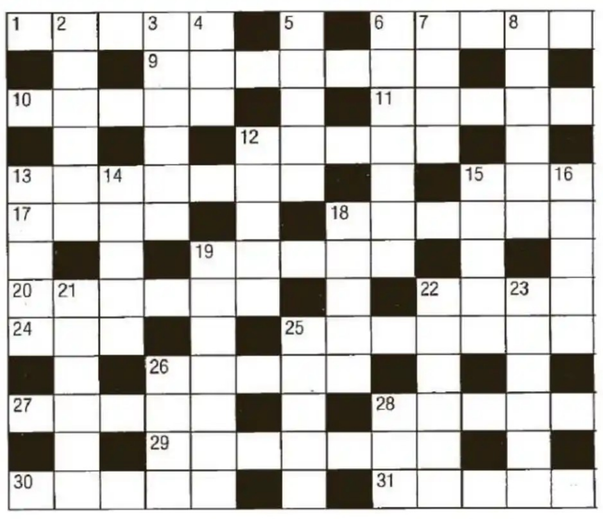
1	6	4	3	8	6	4	2
8	1	2	6	4	3	7	6
4	4	7	5	6	6	2	5
3	7	1	1	6	4	5	8
2	4	3	6	7	4	8	1
1	6	8	6	2	1	1	4
3	3	5	4	1	8	6	7
7	3	6	4	5	7	4	4

SOLUTION for HITORI-137

■	4	■	5	■	6	3	7
7	■	6	8	1	4	5	3
4	■	■	1	2	■	8	6
1	8	■	7	6	3	4	2
8	5	4	■	1	■	7	■
■	2	■	6	5	7	■	4
6	7	3	4	■	2	1	8
2	■	6	8	3	4	■	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 138



EASY

ACROSS
1 Condition (5)
6 Regal (5)
9 One more (7)
10 Trade name (5)
11 Ludicrous situation (5)
12 Desert animal (5)
13 Loathsome (7)
15 Deity (3)
17 Particle (4)
18 Strict (6)
19 Beast (5)
20 Dull (6)
22 Strongbox (4)
24 Total (3)
25 Oval dish (7)
26 Artist's stand (5)
27 Group of directors (5)
28 Hibernian (5)
29 Submissive (7)
30 Verdant (5)
31 Slack (5)

DOWN
2 Source of danger (6)
3 Bicycle for two (6)
4 Finish (3)
5 Thieve (5)
6 Football official (7)
7 Spoken (4)
8 Mooring device (6)
12 Spicy dish (5)
13 Passes (5)
14 Tribal badge (5)
15 Mean, intend (3,2)
16 Discourage (5)
18 Play for time (5)
19 Widen (7)
21 Gossip (6)
22 Hi-fi (6)
23 Banquets (6)
25 Irritate (5)
26 Gaelic (4)
28 Unwell (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Many a security device has a timer (5)
6 Go on the current course (5)
9 Land to the left of Spain and Portugal? (7)
10 Not so different from a nose (5)
11 Low fellow keeping high status to the bitter end (5)
12 Equipped to build a road around me (5)
13 Second-choice book? (7)
15 By making a hamper vegetarian? (3)
17 Social crawlers upset by Stan (4)
18 Plan to shoot about half the guns (6)
19 Nominally a way of working in crime (5)
20 A good place when a fellow needs a bit of help (6)
22 Reduce the work force with enthusiasm (4)
24 Vegans may see it as a bit of a shame (3)
25 Young actress playing with rattles (7)
26 She can take one in hand (5)
27 Something like a submarine or a cigar (5)
28 The custom of riding? (5)
29 In Ireland, it can bring unrest to central Germany (7)
30 Lived out about half a mile in the country (5)
31 My thoughts ought not to be included in these stories (5)

DOWN
2 Tree half hidden on one side of Berlin (6)
3 Shuts up when the company head gets no profit (6)
4 At the weekend, it's what one may wear (3)
5 In the distance, one gets it by the kilo (5)
6 Made a splash and much noise at a low resort (5,2)
7 Military operation bringing gunners to a horrid end (4)
8 It may bring a touching response when put out (6)
12 The use of a veil, it's said (5)
13 Whence the hands hurried to church? (5)
14 Running out of it can be tiresome (5)
15 A hole in your eye! (5)
16 Make new adjustment for sleep, orbiting the earth (5)
18 River of froth? (5)
19 Maybe Rosie takes us to be important (7)
21 Our man's place in Graham Greene's work (6)
22 Good place, somewhat fresh and unusually airy (6)
23 Gentleman's enjoyment? (6)
25 Music making Sarah somewhat sad? (5)
26 Where the millenium-minded could pass a bit of time (4)
28 A little cough, with breathlessness, upsets me (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 138

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, C-lock 6, Drift 9, L-iberia 10, Snoot 11, VIP-er 12, A-Rme-d- 13, Reserve 15, Per 17, Ants 18, Fi-gu-re 19, SI-MO-n 20, Chap-el 22, Fire 24, Ham 25, Starlet 26, D-I-nah 27, Kazoo 28, Habit 29, M-unster 30, Wa-ie-s 31, Myth-s.
DOWN: 2, Lin-den 3, C-loses 4, K-it 5, Metre 6, Dive-r In 7, RA-id 8, Feeler 12, Avail 13, Ran-Ch. 14, Steam 15, Pupil 16, Res-E-t 18, Forth 19, Serio-us 21, Havana 22, Fr-iary 23, Relish 25, Sal-sa 26, Do-me 28, H-em.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, State 6, Royal 9, Another 10, Brand 11, Farce 12, Camel 13, Hateful 15, God 17, Atom 18, Severe 19, Brute 20, Dreary 22, Safe 24, Sum 25, Platter 26, Easel 27, Board 28, Irish 29, Servile 30, Green 31, Loose.
DOWN: 2, Threat 3, Tandem 4, End 5, Steal 6, Referee 7, Oral 8, Anchor 12, Curry 13, Hands 14, Totem 15, Get at 16, Deter 18, Stall 19, Broaden 21, Rumour 22, Stereo 23, Feasts 25, Peeve 26, Erse 28, Ill.

HITORI-137

1	6	4	3	8	6	4	2
8	1	2	6	4	3	7	6
4	4	7	5	6	6	2	5
3	7	1	1	6	4	5	8
2	4	3	6	7	4	8	1
1	6	8	6	2	1	1	4
3	3	5	4	1	8	6	7
7	3	6	4	5	7	4	4

SOLUTION for HITORI-137

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4	■	■	1	2	■	8	6
1	8	■	7	6	3	4	2
8	5	4	■	1	■	7	■
■	2	■	6	5	7	■	4
6	7	3	4	■	2	1	8
2	■	6	8	3	4	■	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

SUN GROUP

"At 93.5 RED FM, we believe growth is truly meaningful only when it uplifts communities. The Red Divas Awards is our tribute to the extraordinary women who are shaping industries, inspiring change and redefining leadership. This Women's Day, we were proud to champion their journeys and celebrate their remarkable success."

Mr. K. Siva
Chief Operating Officer, KAL Radio Ltd.,
The company that operates **93.5 RED FM and Suryan FM**

Mia by Tanishq | Orion Wempower

PRESENTS

Red Divas AWARDS 2026

RED Divas Awards Took off in Style

superhits RED FM 93.5 Bajaate Raho!

ORION MALL AT BRIGADE GATEWAY

Bengaluru witnessed the Mia by Tanishq & Orion Wempower Red Divas Awards 2026. The event was hosted at Orion Mall on 8th March, International Women's Day, celebrating women who are making a significant impact across industries.

The award ceremony honored 40+ women achievers from diverse sectors including medical, fashion, fitness, event management, business, entrepreneurship, entertainment, social impact, and software & technology industries, recognizing their leadership and inspiring contributions.

Actress Haripriya attended the event as the Chief Guest, applauding the winners for their achievements. The evening also featured a special musical performance by renowned Kannada playback singer Avinash Chebbi and was graced by Mr. R. S. Dharmendra, an honorable jury member and transformational hospitality leader.

The evening concluded with a celebratory dinner at High Ultra Lounge, bringing together award winners, guests, and industry leaders to celebrate the spirit of International Women's Day.

At Mia by Tanishq, we celebrate the spirit of modern women who are fearless and inspiring every day. Partnering with Red FM for the Divas Awards makes this celebration even more special

Sanjay Bhattacharjee
Retail and Sales Head, Mia by Tanishq

Mrs. Sinu Swaminathan

Ms. Reshma Kunhi

Dr. Sangeetha Rao

Dr. Meena S

Dr. Nandini M Hadalagi

Ms. Jeya Malhotra

Ms. Priya Mathilakath

Mrs. Geetha Praveen

Dr. Shanthala S

Mrs. Shweta Nandakumar

Dr. Manju Nair

Dr. Khushboo Mishra

Dr. Teena Thomas

Ms. Yasmin Sait

Mrs. Lakshmi Keerthi

Dr. Jyoti Bandi

Dr. Jyothsna BM

Mrs. Saravanapriya R

Dr. Manjula Deepak

Ms. Anushree Gowda

Mrs. Neetha Chethan

Mrs. Prerna Mohan

Ms. Lekha Jain

Ms. Chaitra Gopal

Mrs. Meenu Ahashani Saravanan

Ms. Sarika Giria

Ms. Nibedita Pradhan

Dr. Shila Dasgupta

Mrs. Swathi Varun

Ms. Priya Satish

Ms. Mithila Saraf

Ms. Anamika Desai

Ms. Zorain Khaleeli

Ms. Sapna Savant

Ms. Pratima Mulani

Ms. Sharada Nandakumar

Ms. Poornima S Narayan

Dr. Suchismitha Rajamanya

Ms. Seema Jain

Dr. Shafalika

Orion Mall

Lakme Academy & AS Dream Studios

Yasmin Sait's journey is rooted in resilience and quiet reinvention. With over three decades in the retail and entertainment industries, she balanced professional excellence while single-handedly nurturing and managing the careers of her children — fondly earning the title of their "mornager." She also explored her creative side as an actor.

At 60, Yasmin chose not to slow down but to rise differently. Today, she is an author, speaker, storyteller, life purpose coach, philanthropist, and the founder of Sunset Finishing School — a platform dedicated to empowering active ageing.

This is not her second innings — this is Yasmin Sait, fully present and just getting started.

Author founder - Sunset Finishing School

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Wknd. WELLNESS

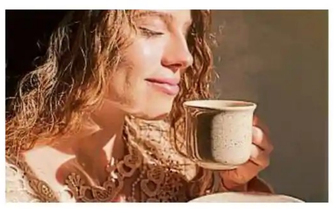
List out three things you are grateful for every day. It helps you see the positive side of life against the challenges you face

WRITE RIGHT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

MINDFULNESS BEATS STRESS

A daily dose of meditation or just experiencing silence can be wonderful for your mood. It is a sure way of beating stress and its impact on your health. It reduces anxiety and improves focus on daily tasks. Practice mindfulness while having your meals, exercising and relaxing with friends.



ORGANISE YOUR DAYS

Very often, stress stems from a disorganised lifestyle where pressure mounts from unfinished tasks. Take the help of a professional life coach if you need to and get a grip on life. Organise both work-related tasks and leisure activities to get the best results from your efforts. An organised life is always less stressful.

Preventive care can prevent kidney disease

Regular screening, healthy lifestyle and a balanced diet go a long way in ensuring healthy kidneys, advises **Dr Topoti Mukherjee**, Lead Consultant – Nephrology and Kidney Transplant, **Aster Whitefield Hospital**

Dr Topoti Mukherjee

The kidneys are among the body's most vital organs, working quietly round-the-clock to filter waste, balance fluids and regulate several essential functions. Yet, kidney disease often progresses silently, without obvious symptoms, until it reaches an advanced stage. As the incidence of lifestyle-related disease rises, specialists are increasingly witnessing a parallel rise in kidney disorders.

The growing burden of chronic kidney disease is closely linked to conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity and heart disease. Kidney disease and heart disease are closely inter-connected, and both significantly affect mortality and morbidity. That is why controlling lifestyle-related diseases is extremely important.

Broadly, kidney disease can be classified into two categories - acute kidney injury and chronic kidney disease. Acute kidney injury is often temporary and potentially reversible. It can occur due to infections such as malaria, dengue or COVID-19, severe dehydration, heart attack or other illnesses that stress the body.

Chronic kidney disease, however, is a long-term and progressive condition that develops in stages. One of the major challenges with chronic kidney disease is the early stages are usually asymptomatic. As a result, many patients remain unaware of the problem until the disease has progressed significantly.

Regular screening and annual health check-ups are helping specialists detect some cases earlier these days. But many patients still come in the advanced stages, when the kidney function has declined severely.

In Stage 5 chronic kidney disease, also known as end-stage kidney disease, the kidneys can no longer perform their filtering role adequately. At this stage, patients may require renal replacement therapy, which includes dialysis or kidney transplant.

Despite medical advances, the word 'dialysis' often evokes fear among patients and their families. But dialysis need not be scary. For many patients, it is a new lease of life while they await transplantation.

Medical outcomes have improved considerably over the years, both in patients on dialysis and in those undergoing kidney transplant. In fact, transplantation is widely considered the most effective long-term treatment for suitable patients.

Kidney health can be protected to a great extent through early detection and preventive care. Individuals with diabetes, hypertension or a family history of kidney disease should undergo regular health screenings, preferably annually. Doctors also recommend annual screening after the age of 30, even for healthy individuals, as kidney disease often behaves like a 'silent killer'.

A healthy lifestyle plays a crucial role in prevention. Maintaining a balanced diet, managing body weight, reducing excess salt intake and ensuring adequate intake of fruits, vegetables and fibre supports overall kidney health. Proteins are important, but excessive dietary imbalances should be avoided.

Specialists also caution against the indiscriminate use of over-the-counter medications and unregulated alternative remedies. Many such substances can harm the kidneys or liver. People often consume them without understanding their long-term effects.

The key message, experts say, is awareness. With timely screening, healthy habits and medical guidance, kidney disease can often be detected early and managed effectively - long before the body's natural filters begin to fail.

PRACTICAL STEPS TO CALM SKIN IN SUMMER

DR MUKTA SACHDEV

1. Cleanse gently, not aggressively
Wash twice daily with a mild, soap-free cleanser. Avoid harsh scrubs and over-cleansing, which damage the skin barrier and increase sensitivity.

2. Wear breathable fabrics
Choose loose cotton clothing. Avoid tight synthetic materials for prolonged periods and change out of sweaty clothes as soon as possible.

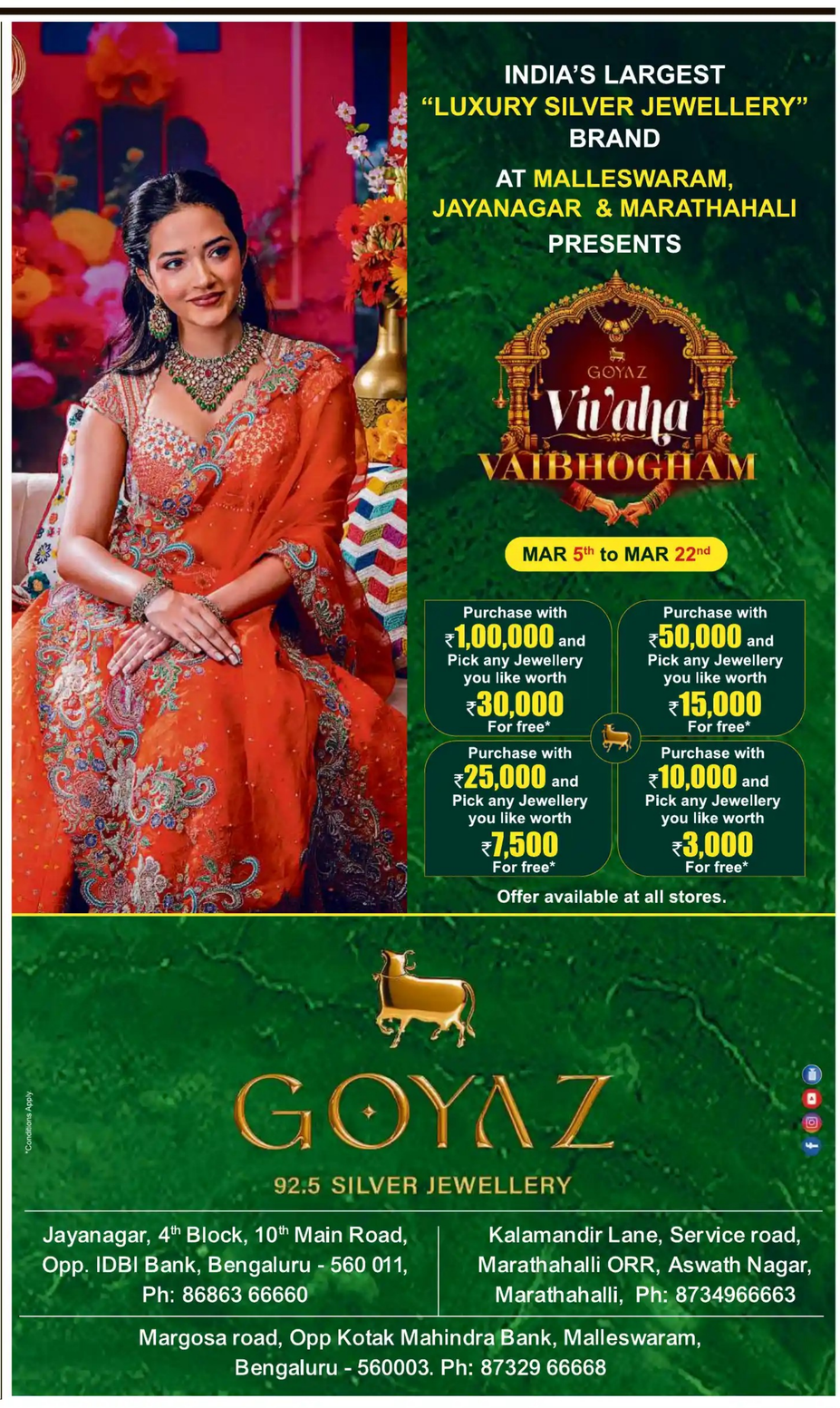
3. Switch to lighter moisturiser
Move from heavy cream to a light lotion or gel-based moisturiser. Even oily skin needs hydration - dehydration makes skin more reactive.

4. Select the right sunscreen
Opt for a lightweight, non-comedogenic, fragrance-free sunscreen. Gel or fluid formulations are better-suited to humid climates.

5. Shower after heavy sweating
Rinse off sweat soon after outdoor activity. Use lukewarm water - very hot shower strips natural oils and worsens irritation.

6. Watch for fungal infection
Persistent itching in skin folds, groin or under the breasts may indicate a fungal infection - extremely common during summer. Early treatment is important. Avoid self-medicating with a steroid cream as it can aggravate the condition.

7. Stay hydrated
Adequate fluid intake helps regulate body temperature and supports skin health. A simple hydrating serum with ingredients such as glycerine strengthens the skin barrier.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Summer is unavoidable, skin distress isn't

Dr Mukta Sachdev, Dermatologist, has some tips for clear, healthy skin, free from rashes and infections, through the summer months

Skin Care

Every year, as the scorching summer tightens its grip, there's a predictable surge in consultations — not just for tanning and acne, but for red, itchy, irritated skin. From prickly heat in children to rashes under masks, helmets and waistbands, summer has a unique way of making your skin feel persistently uncomfortable.

But why does this happen so consistently? And more importantly, what can you do about it?

Heat, humidity and sweat

Indian summers combine three powerful stressors - heat, humidity and sweat. When the temperature rises, your body produces more sweat to cool itself. Sweat, mixed with oil and environmental pollutants, sits on the skin's surface and clogs pores. This leads to inflammation, blocked sweat ducts, and sometimes, infection.

In humid conditions, sweat doesn't evaporate easily. Instead, it gets trapped in sweat ducts, causing miliaria - commonly known as prickly heat rash. It appears as tiny red bumps with a stinging or prickling sensation, especially on the neck, back, chest and underarms.

Friction aggravates irritation

Friction is another major culprit. Tight clothing, synthetic fabrics, inner thighs rubbing together, straps and waistbands create constant micro-trauma to the skin. Add sweat to the equation and irritation intensifies.

Heat triggers flare-ups

For those prone to eczema, rosacea or sensitive skin, summer can trigger flare-ups. Even individuals who usually tolerate their skincare routine well may suddenly experience burning or redness. Heat increases blood flow to the skin, making it more reactive and less tolerant of active ingredients.

Sunscreen paradox

While sunscreen is essential in India's intense UV exposure, the wrong formulation can worsen irritation. Thick, greasy or heavily-fragranced products may clog pores or sting when applied on sweaty skin. The solution is not in skipping sunscreen - it is in choosing the right one.

When to seek help

If irritation persists beyond a few days, spreads rapidly, becomes painful or shows signs of infection, professional dermatological evaluation is important. Early care prevents complications and post-inflammatory pigmentation.

Summer is unavoidable. Skin distress doesn't have to be. With mindful adjustments, your skin can remain calm, resilient and comfortable - even in the most unforgiving heat. After all, healthy skin is not about fighting the season, it is about learning to flow with it.

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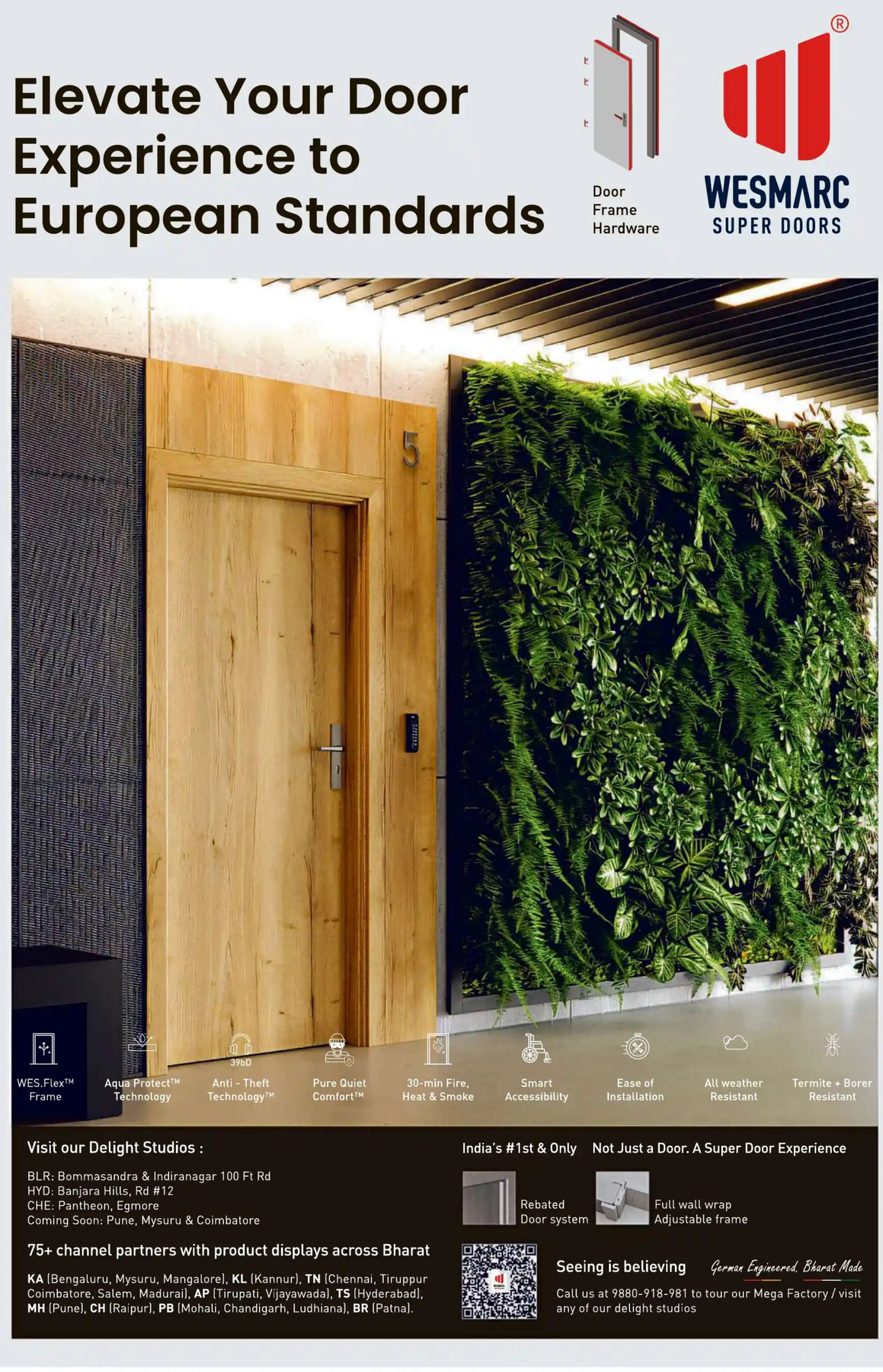
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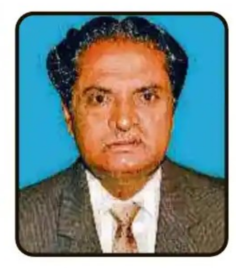

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BDA-SITES Wanted @ Banashankari 6th`Stg Visveshwaraiah Lyt Anjanapura Kempegowda`Lyt 30x40,40x60,50x80 Immediate Settlement Rajesh 9945610779

Banashankari

BDA SITES WANTED ARKAVATI, ANJANAPURA, BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE, VISHWESHWARAIAH KEMPEGOWDA ANY BDA LAYOUT: 9845062822/ 8660751654

Multiple Locations

WANTED BDA Sites Arkavathi, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda & BDA other Layouts. Contact: SAPTHAGIRI (Opposite BDA Head Office):: 9036360366

Vishweshwariah Layout

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BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage 11th Block, 40x60 West Facing 80 Feet Road Parallel, Call: 9483748768/ 9986076018.

30X40,BDA NORTH Facing Plot For Sale At Banashankari 6th Stage, 3rd Block, Genuine Buyers: 9980775693

J P Nagar

JPNAGAR 7TH PHASE AVAILABLE 45x40, 2 SITES SOUTH EAST CORNER AND SOUTH WEST CORNER BBMP E KHATA (11B). 7022435107

Kengeri

SITE FOR Sale 40×50 Kengeri Kodipalya Vinayaka layout Near Kengeri Metro Station, Price 10,000. Contact: 9731819633

FOR SALE: BBMP A Khatha Sites at Kengeri, 500 meters from the Metro Station with Cauvery Water. Contact: 9606342643

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BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Vishweshwariah, BDA Site, Houses are available. Contact: 9900999919.

Rajarajeshwari Nagar

RR.NAGAR BEML 5th Stage 6560.Sqft. West Facing, Vastu Site Sale, Suitable for Apartment. Contact: 9448121223.

SALE Building 20X35 Duplex House. Ideal Homes sites 40X60, 80X110, BDA, Direct Owner Meeting, 9164409377

SITE FOR Sale at Ideal homes society, 40X62, south facing. RR Nagar, Bangalore. Contact: 9844013941

Sadashiva Nagar

RMV 1ST BLOCK Sadashivanagar, R.R.Nagar 40x60 Bangalow. Kumarpark Malleshwaram Vijayanagar Basavanagudi Jayanagara Any Measurements: 9845057822

Sanjaynagar

SANJAYNAGAR KEB LAYOUT BDA 1050 sft North West corner 40 feet Road E-Khatha, 9341260828 7829203369

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BDA SITE For Sale @ Vishweshwaraiah Layout 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Contact: 6363496142 9845555666

40X60, EAST, BDA, Vishweshwaraiah Layout 8th Block FE, Near Bindu Amulya Apartments, Contact Owner 7795368515

"VISVESHWARAIAH 7TH_BLOCK 30x40_East, Nagarabhavi BDA_Complex near 30X50 40 feet Road. 9448733456/ 7259675150"

BDA SITE SALE VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 2nd Block 40X60 NORTH FACE NEAR 100FT ROAD GOOD LOCATION CONTACT: 8892901567

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Anjanapura

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RMV

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Hennur

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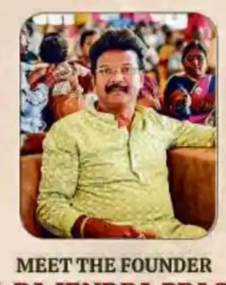

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